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BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

USIS/VTE

151555 MARCH 71

~~REX/~~ USIS/~~REX~~ LP

~~AC/~~ AC/BHS , AC/SBY.

" PRIORITY "

USIS VIENTIANE USINFO DTD 13 MARCH. IS REPEATED BELOW FOR YOUR INFORMATION.
IS

1. THERE/ NO BASIC CHANGE IN THE OVERALL MILITARY SITUATION IN LAOS AS
OF SATURDAY AFTERNOON.

2. A NUMBER OF SHARP SMALL UNIT CLASHES TOOK PLACE IN THE GENERAL VICINITY
OF LONG TIENG AND SAM THONG SOUTHWEST OF THE PLAIN OF JARS. NORTH VIETNAMESE
GUNNERS FIRED TWO MORE 122 MILLIMETER ROCKETS INTO THE GOVERNMENT BASE OF
LONG TIENG, BUT CAUSED NO DAMAGE AND NO CASUALTIES.

3. GOVERNMENT FORCES, REGROUPING AFTER THE LOSS EARLIER IN THE WEEK OF SEVERAL
DEFENSE POSITIONS ON THE EASTERN BOLOVENS PLATEAU IN SOUTHERN LAOS,
REPORT ONLY SPORADICALLY AND LIGHT CONTACTS WITH NORTH VIETNAMESE
TROOPS IN THE AREA.

FROM: BARNES

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

USIS/VTE

151605 MARCH 71

USIS/~~VTE~~ **P**

AC/BHS, AC/SBY

PRIORITY

USIS VTE USINFO DTD 14 MARCH. IS REPEATED BELOW FOR YOUR INFORMATION.

1. NO SIGNIFICANT MILITARY ACTIONS WERE REPORTED ANYWHERE IN THE KINGDOM OF LAOS AS OF SUNDAY AFTERNOON.
2. SEVERAL PATROL CLASHES TOOK PLACE IN THE GENERAL AREA OF LONGG TIENG SOUTHWEST OF THE PLAIN OF JARS. IN THE SOUTH, A SMALL UNIT CLASH WAS REPORTED IN THE SOUTHERN PART OF THEE BELOW PLATEAU.

FROM: BARNES

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIENE

USIS/VTE

15 1535 MARCH '71

USIS/LP

AC/BHS, AC/SBY.

" PRIORITY "

USIS VTE USINFO DTD 12 MARCH IS REPEATED BELOW FOR YOUR INFORMATION.

1. MILITARY ACTIVITY IN LAOS REMAINS AT A RELATIVELY LOW LEVEL.

2. SPORADIC CLASHES WERE REPORTED THURSDAY NIGHT BETWEEN GOVERNMENT ~~UNITS~~ ^{UNITS} AND NORTH

VIETNAMESE TROOPS NORTH AND NORTHEAST OF THE ROYAL CAPITAL OF LP. GOVERNMENT ~~SOLDIERS~~ ^{SOLDIERS}

FORCES REPORTED KILLING AT LEAST SIX COMMUNIST ~~SOLDIERS~~ AND TAKING ONE PRISONER.

3. NORTH VIETNAMESE GUNNERS ~~THURSDAY~~ FRIDAY FIRED TWO ROCKETS INTO LONG TIENG, THE GOVERNMENT DEFENSE BASE SOUTHWEST OF THE PLAIN OF JARS, BUT CAUSED NO DAMAGE OR CASUALTIES.

4. THE VILLAGE OF DONG HENE, SOME FORTY- FIVE KILOMETERS EAST OF SAVANHAKHET ALONG ROUTE NINE, WAS FOR THE SECOND DAY BOMBARDED BY NORTH VIETNAMESE ROCKETS. SIX ROCKETS IMPACTED IN THE VILLAGE, WOUNDING ONE CIVILIAN AND DESTROYING A PAGODA.

5. FURTHER SOUTH, GOVERNMENT DEFENSE POSITIONS AT BAN HOUET SAI THE CENTRAL PART OF THE ~~BOLOVENS~~ ^{BOLOVENS} PLATEAU RECEIVED A NUMBER OF ROUNDS OF NORTH VIETNAMESE ARTILLERY FIRE.

BARNES

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

ISIS/VTE

161120 MARCH 71

ISIS/VTE

AC/BHS, AC/SBY.

PRIORITY

USIS VTE USINFO DTD 15 MARCH. IS REPEATED BELOW FOR YOUR INFORMATION.

1. SCATTERED SMALL UNIT CLASHED AND SHELLINGS OF GOVERNMENT POSITIONS BY NORTH VIETNAMESE FORCES CONTINUE THROUGHOUT LAOS AS OF MONDAY AFTERNOON.
2. IN NORTH CENTRAL LAOS, NORTH VIETNAMESE TROOPS ATTACKED AND OCCUPIED A GOVERNMENT POSITION NEAR THE VILLAGE OF MOUNG PHUN, ABOUT FIFTEEN KILOMETERS NORTH OF THE LARGE REFUGEE CENTER OF BAN SON. THE POSITION WAS DEFENDED BY A SMALL SELF-DEFENSE.
3. SEVERAL CLASHES WERE REPORTED IN THE GENERAL VICINITY OF THE GOVERNMENT BASE OF LONG TIENG, AND NORTH VIETNAMESE GUNNERS FIRED FOUR 122 MILLIMETERS ROCKETS INTO THE AREA OF SAM THONG.
4. IN SOUTH CENTRAL LAOS, COMMUNIST TROOPS RAIDED THE VILLAGE OF BAN NAN OKHIENG SOME FORTY-FIVE KILOMETERS EAST OF SAVANNAKHET. THE COMMUNISTS LOOTED THE VILLAGE AND SET TWENTY HOUSES ON FIRE.
5. SMALL UNIT CLASHES OCCURRED ALSO NORTH AND NORTHEAST OF THE ROYAL CAPITAL OF LUANG PRABANG.
6. IN THE SOUTH, NORTH VIETNAMESE TROOPS FIRED SEVERAL MORTAR SHELLS INTO THE AREA OF THE GOVERNMENT DEFENSE CAMP OF BAN HOUET SAI, IN THE CENTRAL REGION ~~OF THE BOLOUENS PLATEAU. NORTH VIETNAMESE TROOPS OCCUPIED TWO MORE POSITIONS IN THE EASTERN AND SOUTHERN PART OF THE PLATEAU.~~

FROM: BARNES.

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

USIS/VTE

171133 MARCH '71

USIS/LP

AC/BHS, AC/SEY.

PRIORITY

USIS VTE USINFO DTD 16 MARH. IS REPEATED BELOW FOR YOU INFORMING.

1. THERE WAS NO SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN THE OVER ALL MILITARY SITUATION IN LAOS TODAY (TUESDAY) SCATTERED CLASHES AND SPORADIC SHELLINGS OF GOVERNMENT POSITIONS CONTINUE IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE KINGDOM.
2. ACCORDING TO REPORTS REACHING VIENTIANE A COMPANY OF MIXED PATHET LAO AND NORTH VIETNAMESE TROOPS INFILTRATED A SMALL VILLAGE SOME FORTY KILOMETERS NORTH NORTHEAST OF THE CAPITAL, CONFISCATED ONE HUNDRED KILOGRAMS OF RICE, BURNED TWO TRUCKS AND ABDUCTED TEN MEN.
3. IN THE NORTH, NEAR THE ROYAL CAPITAL OF LUANG PRABANG, COMMUNIST TROOPS AMBUSHED A CIVILIAN BOAT ON THE MEKONG, KILLING TWO CREWMEN. ROYAL LAO AIR FORCE PLANES SEARCHED OUT THE AMBUSHING FORCE AND REPORTEDLY KILLED FIFTEEN COMMUNIST SOLDIERS.
4. NORTH VIETNAMESE GUNNERS CONTINUE SPORADIC SHELLING OF GOVERNMENT POSITIONS AT BAN NA, JUST WEST OF THE PLAIN OF JARS. THEY ALSO FIRED TWO ROCKETS INTO THE LAO ARMY BASE OF LONG TIENG CAUSING LIGHT CASUALTIES AND NO DAMAGE. SEVERAL SMALL UNIT CLASHES WERE REPORTED IN THE GENERAL AREA SOUTHWEST OF THE PLAIN.

FROM: BARNES.

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

USIS/VTE

181150 MARCH '71

USIS/LP

AC/BHS, AC/SHY.

" PRIORITY "

USIS VIENTIANE USINFODTD 17 MARCH IS REPEATED BELOW FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

1. AS OF WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, THERE WAS NO SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN THE OVERALL MILITARY ~~SITUATION~~ SITUATION LAOS
2. SEVERAL SMALL UNIT ACTIONS WERE REPORTED IN BOTH NORTH AND NORTH CENTRAL LAOS, PARTICULARLY IN THE AREA SOUTHWEST OF THE PLAIN OF JARS. NORTH VIETAMEN GUNNERS CONTINUE SHELLING GOVERNMENT POSITIONS IN THE AREA.
3. THERE ARE REPORTS OF COMMUNIST TROOPS MOVED IN THE VICINITY OF THE LARGE REFUGEE CENTER OF BAN SON, SOME EIGHTY KILOMETERS NORTH OF VTE. A LAO GOVERNMENT PATROL WAS AMBUSHED TWICE IN THE AREA ABOUT FIVE KILOMETERS SOUTH OF BAN SON. THE GOVERNMENT UNIT SUFFERED SEVERAL CASUALTIES

FROM: BARNES.

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

USIS

221054 MARCH '71

USIS

PASS TO USAID AC'S

" PRIORITY "

USIS VTE USINFO DATED 19 MARCH IS REPEATED BELOW FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

1. LAO GOVERNMENT TROOPS HAVE BEATEN OFF A NORTH FM NORTH VIETNAMESE ATTACK WEST OF THE PLAIN OF JARS WITH APPARENTLY SERIOUS LOSSES TO THE ATTACKERS.
2. NORTH VIETNAMESE TROOPS OPENED THEIR ATTACK THURSDAY WITH HEAVY BOMBARDMENT OF JARS, FIRING ABOUT A HUNDRED ROUNDS OF MORTARS, ROCKETS, AND RECOILESS RIFLE PROJECTILES. AT NIGHT, THE NORTH VIETNAMESE FOLLOWED WITH A GROUND ATTACK, BUT WELL DUG-IN GOVERNMENT FORCES REPULSED THE ATTACKERS. REPORTS INDICATE THAT THE NORTH VIETNAMESE SUFFERED SERIOUS LOSSES IN THE UNSUCCESSFUL ASSAULT. LATER, NORTH VIETNAMESE GUNNERS RESUMED SHELLING OF GOVERNMENT POSITIONS.
3. FURTHER SOUTH THE LAO MILITARY BASE OF LONG TIENG WAS AGAIN SHELLED BY NORTH VIETNAMESE ROCKETS, ~~WHICH~~ WHICH CAUSED LIGHT DAMAGE AND KILLED ONE CIVILIAN.
4. ONLY SCATTERED CLASHES WERE REPORTED FROM OTHER AREAS OF LAOS.

FROM: BARNES.

BAN HOUEI SAI

VIENTIANE

USIS

221106 MARCH '71

USIS

PASS TO USAID AC'S

" PRIORITY "

USIS VTE USINFO DATED 20 MARCH IS REPORTED BELOW FOR YOUR INFORMATION

1. ONLY SCATTERED PATROL CLASHES WERE REPORTED THROUGHOUT RLG-CONTROLLED LAOS FOR THE PAST TWENTY FOUR HOURS, ENDING SATURDAY AT NOON.
2. NORTH VIETNAMESE GUNNERS CONTINUE SPORADIC SHELLING OF GOVERNMENT POSITIONS AT BAN NA, JUST WEST OF THE PLAIN OF JARS, BUT NO FURTHER NORTH VIETNAMESE GROUND ATTACKS WERE REPORTED AFTER EARLY FRIDAY, WHEN A COMMUNIST PROBE WAS BROKEN BY GOVERNMENT TROOPS AND LAO AIR FORCE PLANES.

FROM: BARNES

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

USIS

1125

USIS

PASS TO USAID AC'S.

" PRIORITY "

USIS VTE USINFO DATED 21 MARCH IS REPEATED BELOW FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

NOTH

1. ~~XXXXXXXX~~ VIETNAMESE GUNNERS ATTACKED WITH ROCKETS THE AIRPORT OF THE ROYAL CAPITAL OF LUANG PRABANG EARLY SUT DAY CAUSING LIGHT DAMAGE AND CASUALTIES.
2. AT LEAST THIRTY 122 MILLIMETERS ROCKETS HIT THE AIRPORT SHORTLY AFTER MIDNIGHT, SLIGHTLY DAMAGING FIVE AIRCRAFT AND CAUSING LIGHT CASUALTIES AMONG THE LAO PERSONNEL. EIGHT MORE ROCKETS IMPACTED IN THE SAME AREA SHORTLY AFTER SEVEN IN THE MORNING. THE CITY OF LUANG PRABANG WAS NOT SHELLLED.
3. AT ABOUT THE SAME TIME NORTH VIETNAMESE GUNNERS HEAVILY SHELLLED LAO GOVERNMENT POSITIONS SOME TWENTY KILOMETERS NORTH OF LUANG PRABANG. OTHER GOVERNMENT DEFENSIVE POSITIONS NORTH AND NORTHEAST OF THE CAPITAL ALSO REPORTED CONTACTS WITH COMMUNIST TROOPS.
4. THIS IS THE FIRST COMMUNIST ATTACK AGAINST THE AIRPORT OF THE ROYAL CAPITAL SINCE 1969
5. ONLY SCATTERED PATROL CLASHES AND SPORADIC SHELLINGS OF GOVERNMENT POSITIONS WERE REPORTED FROM OTHER AREAS OF LAOS.

FROM: BARNES

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

USIS

251510MARCH'71

USIS

AC/SBH, AC/BHS.

" PRIORITY "

USIS VTE USINFO DTD 24 MARCH. IS REPEATED BELOW FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

1. THE MILITARY SITUATION AROUND THE ROYAL LAOTIEN CAPITAL OF LP IS GRADUALLY STABILIZING.
2. GOVERNMENT FORCES, AFTER BEING REINFORCED FROM OTHER AREAS OF LAOS, ARE CONTINUING THEIR EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THEIR POSITIONS NORTH AND NORTHEAST OF THE CITY. NORTH VIETNAMESE UNITS ARE STILL IN THE AREA AND NIGHT CLASHES AND SPORADIC SHELLINGS OF GOVERNMENT POSITIONS ARE REPORTED.
3. IN NORTH CENTRAL LAOS, IN THE AREA SOUTHWEST OF THE PLAIN OF JARS, NORTH VIETNAMESE GUNNERS CONTINUE SHELLING GOVERNMENT POSITIONS, ONE OUTPOST, ABOUT SEVEN KILOMETERS EAST OF SAM THONG, RECEIVED MORE THAN 140 ROUNDS OF 120 MILLIMETERS MORTAR FIRE. GOVERNMENT POSITIONS AT BAN NA, JUST WEST OF THE PLAIN OF JARS, WERE ALSO SHELLLED BY MORTARS AND RECOILESS RIFLES SEVERAL SMALL UNIT CLASHES WERE REPORTED THROUGHOUT THE AREA.
4. ACCORDING TO REPORTS REACHING VTE, NORTH VIETNAMESE TROOPS ARE CONCENTRATING NEAR DONG HENE ALONG ROUTE NINE, SOME FIFTY KILOMETERS EAST OF SAVANNAKHET.

BAN HOUET SAI
~~XX~~

VIENTIANE

USIS

261052 MARCH '71

USIS

PASS TO AC'S USAID.

" PRIORITY "

USIS VTE USINFO DTD 25 MARCH. IS REPEATED BELOW FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

1. THE LAO GOVERNMENT TROOPS THURSDAY ENTERED THE TOWN OF MUONG PHALANE IN SOUTH CENTRAL LAOS, SOME NINETY KILOMETERS EAST OF SAVANNAKHET ALONG ROUTE NINE
2. ACCORDING TO REPORTS REACHING VIENTIANE GOVERNMENT TROOPS ENCOUNTERED ONLY TOKEN OPPOSITION FROM THE NORTH VIETNAMESE. THERE ARE REPORTS OF SUBSTANTIAL NORTH VIETNAMESE FORCES A LOCATED WEST OF MUONG PHALANE, CLOSER TO THE GOVERNMENT HELD TOWN OF DONG HENE. MUONG PHALANE WAS CAPTURED BY THE NORTH VIETNAMESE ABOUT TWO MONTHS AGO.
3. IN NORTH CENTRAL LAOS, SOUTHWEST OF THE PLAIN OF JARS, GOVERNMENT TROOPS CLEARED A MOUNTAIN RIDGE ABOUT SIX KILOMETERS NORTH OF LONG TIENG, KILLING IN THIS ACTION AT LEAST TWENTY-FOUR NORTH VIETNAMESE SOLDIERS, WHILE SUFFERING ONLY VERY LIGHT CASUALTIES.
4. IN OTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN THE SAME MENERAL AREA, NORTH VIETNAMESE GUNNERS FIRED NINE ROCKETS INTO THE VALLAGE OF LONG TIENG WEDNESDAY, KILLING ~~ONLY~~ ONE CIVILIAN NO OTHER DAMAGE WAS BONE FOUR OF THE ROCKETS DID NOT EXPLODE.
5. FARTHER NORTH, JUST WEST OF THE PLAIN OF JARS, GOVERNMENT POSITIONS NEAR BAN NA WERE SHELLLED BY MORTARS AND ROCKETS. ROYAL LAO ARTILLERY AT BAN NA RESPONDED, FIRING ~~THE~~ INTO SUSPECTED NORTH VIETNAMESE POSITIONS.
6. THE MILITARY SITUATION AROUND THE ROYAL CAPITAL OF LUANG PRABANG IS LESS TENSE THAN UESTERDAY, WITH GOVERNMENT TROOPS MOVING OUTWARD FROM THE CITY AT AND RETAKING POSITIONS ABANDONED LAST SUNDAY AND MONDAY. ONE SKIRMISH WAS REPORTED WEDNESDAY EVENING ABOUT FOUR KILOMETERS FROM LUANG PRABANG AIRPORT IT LASTED FOR SEVERAL HOURS, WITH THE NORTH VIETNAMESE RETREATING BEFORE DAWN.
7. IN VIENTIANE, THE ROYAL LAO GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED THAT, FOLLOWING NORTH VIETNAMESE ATTACKS ON THE ROYAL CAPITAL OF LUANG PROBANG, PRIME MINISTER SOUVANNA PHOUMA SENT A PROTEST TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SOVIET UNION AND GREAT BRITAIN, AS CO-CHAIRMEN OF 1962 GENEVA CONFERENCE ON THE NEUTRALITY OF LAOS. THE MESSAGES, THE EXACT CONTENTS OF WHICH WERE NOT DISCLOSED, WERE HANDED THURSDAY TO THE AMBASSADORS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES IN VIENTIANE. THE GOVERNMENT COMMUNIQUESTATED ONLY THAT THE PRIME MINISTER REQUESTED THE CO-CHAIRMEN TO TAKE APPROPRIATE MEASURES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE GENEVA AGREEMENTS.

FROM: BARNN.

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

USIS

291432 MARCH '71

USIS

PASS TO AC'S USAID.

" PRIORITY "

USIS VTE USINFO DTD 27 MARCH. IS REPEATED BELOW FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

1. THE MILITARY SITUATION AROUND THE ROYAL LAO CAPITAL OF LUANG PRABANG REMAINS SERIOUS, WITH STRONG NORTH VIETNAMESE PRESSURE CLOSE TO THE CITY'S AIRPORT.
2. ACCORDING TO REPORTS REACHING VIENTIANE AT LEAST TWO NORTH VIETNAMESE BATTALIONS ATTACKED EARLY SATURDAY GOVERNMENT POSITIONS LOCATED THREE TO FIVE KILOMETERS FROM THE AIRPORT. GOVERNMENT TROOPS, ASSISTED BY THE ROYAL LAO AIR FORCE PLANES STOPPED THE ATTACKERS AND LATER IN THE MORNING RE-OCCUPIED SOME HIGH POSITIONS ABOUT FIVE KILOMETERS FARTHER EAST. A NORTH VIETNAMESE SAPPER ATTACK WAS FOILED BY GOVERNMENT PATROLS SOUTH OF THE AIRPORT.
3. IN THE AREA SOUTHWEST OF THE PLAIN OF JARS IN NORTH CENTRAL LAOS NORTH VIETNAMESE GUNNERS CONTINUED SHELLING GOVERNMENT POSITIONS IMMEDIATELY WEST OF THE PLAIN: THE HILLTOP POSITIONS AT BAN NA WERE SHELLLED BY ROCKETS, MORTARS AND ARTILLERY FOR SIXTH CONSECUTIVE DAY. GOVERNMENT ARTILLERY IN THE AREA FIRED BACK AT SUSPECTED NORTH VIETNAMESE GUN LOCATIONS.
4. FURTHER SOUTH, IN THE SAME SECTOR, A GOVERNMENT PATROL FOUND A NORTH VIETNAMESE SOLDIER HIDING IN A CAVE. HE WAS WOUNDED ABOUT A MONTH AGO IN A LAO AIR FORCE AIR STRIKE AND ABANDONED BY HIS COMRADES.
5. ONLY SCATTERED SMALL UNIT SKIRMISHES WERE REPORTED FROM OTHER PARTS OF LAOS.

FROM: BARN

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

USIS

291511 MARCH '71

USIS

PASS TO AC'S USAID.

" PRIORITY "

1. THE MILITARY. SITUATION AROUND THE ROYAL LAOTIEN CAPITAL AS SOME WHAT IMPROVED. THE NIGHT FROM SATURDAY TO SUNDAY WAS DESCRIBED AS RELATIVELY QUIET WITH ONLY OCCASIONAL EXCHANGES OF FIRE. DURING THE DAY SATURDAY GOVERNMENT FORCES ADVANCED OUTWARD FROM THEIR PERIMETER AROUND THE AIRPORT, SECURING SEVERAL HIGH GROUND POSITIONS, AS WELL AS A HIGHWAY BRIDGE IN SEVERAL SHARP CLASHES DURING THESE OPERATIONS GOVERNMENT UNITS KILLED OVER ONE HUNDRED ~~WERE~~ NORTH VIETNAMESE SOLDIERS AND CAPTURED A NUMBER OF INDIVIDUAL AND CREW-SERVED WEAPONS, WHILE SUFFERING ONLY LIGHT CASUALTIES.
2. ELSEWHERE IN LAOS, GOVERNMENT POSITIONS NEAR BAN NA, JUST WEST OF THE PLAIN ~~TO~~ OF JAR~~B~~, ARE STILL UNDER HEAVY ROCKET, MORTARS AND ARTILLERY FIRE. GOVERNMENT ARTILLERY RETURNS THE FIRE, SHELLING SUSPECTED NORTH VIETNAMESE GUN EMPLACEMENTS. FARTHER SOUTH, THE GOVERNMENT BASE AT LONG TIENG WAS SHELLED SATURDAY BY ROCKETS WHICH CAUSED LIGHT DAMAGE AND CASUALTIES.
3. IN SLUTH CENTRAL LAOS GOVERNMENT TROOPS CLASHED SEVERAL TIMES SATURDAY WITH NORTH VIETNAMESE UNITS NEAR THE TOWN OF MOUNG PHALANE, SOME EIGHTY KILOMETERS EAST OF SAVANNAKHET. LAO AIR FORCE PLANES SUPPORTED THE GOVERNMENT TROOPS AND THE NORTH VIETNAMESE. WITHDREW AFTER SUFFERING AT LEAST ONE HUNDRED KILLED. GOVERNMENT LOSSES WERE TERMED AS LIGHT.

FROM: BARNES.

BAN HOUAI SAI

VIENTIANE

USIS

APRIL
011500 HAREN '71

USIS

PASS TO AC'S USAID.

" PRIORITY "

USIS VIENTIANE USINFO DTD 31 MARCH IS REPEATED BELOW FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

1. LAO MILITARY AUTHORITIES REPORT INCREASED NORTH VIETNAMESE PRESSURE ON GOVERNMENT FORCES IN NORTH CENTRAL LAOS, SOUTHWEST OF THE PLAIN OF JARS.
2. THE GOVERNMENT BASE CAMP AT BAN NA, JUST WEST OF THE PLAIN, HAS BEEN UNDER HEAVY SHELLING BY ARTILLERY ROCKETS AND MORTARS FOR NEARLY TWO WEEKS. ACCORDING TO REPORTS REACHING VIENTIANE WEDNESDAY, NORTH VIETNAMESE TROOPS ARE NOW CLOSE ENOUGH TO BAN NA TO ENGAGE THE DEFENDERS WITH SMALL ARMS FIRE.
3. THE MAIN GOVERNMENT BASE IN THE AREA, LONG TIENG, WAS ROCKETED AGAIN WEDNESDAY. FOUR ROCKETS IMPACTED NEAR THE AIRSHIP, BUT CAUSED NO DAMAGE AND NO CASUALTIES. ROCKETING OF LONG TIENG HAS BECOME AN ALMOST DAILY OCCURENCE FOR THE PAST WEEK OR SO.
4. THE/ ^{AREA} ~~XXXX~~ AROUND THE ROYAL CAPITAL OF LUANG PRABANG IS REPORTED RELATIVELY CALM AND THE SITUATION THERE MAY BE STABILIZING.
5. ONLY SCATTERED SMALL UNIT CLASHES WERE REPORTED FROM OTHER PARTS OF LAOS.

FROM: BANN

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

US~~IS~~/VTE

021115 APRIL '71

AC'S ALL FIELD STATION

" PRIORITY "

DURING WEEKEND AND EARLY NEXT WEEK YOU WILL RECEIVE TWO LARGE
BATCHES LAO PHOTO SHEETS COVERING STORY OF MR-IV PL RALLIERS.
ONE SIDE ONLY
BA FIRST ~~BAEK~~ BATCH WILL BE PRINTED / FOR WALL POSTING, SECOND
BATCH BOTH SIDES. PLEASE EXPEDISE ~~THIS~~ DISTRIBUTION YOUR AREA
THROUGH LIS, FAR, AND ANY OTHER CHENNELS YOU MAY HAVE.

FROM: NAUGHTON.

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

USIS

021140 APRIL 71

USIS

PASS TO AC' SSA/D

" PRIORITY "

USIS VIENTIANE USINFO DTD 01 APRIL IS REPEATED BELOW FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

1. THER WAS NO SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN THE OVERALL MILITARY SITUATION IN LAOS FOR THE PAST TWENTY FOUR HOURS. ENDING THURSDAY AFTERNOON.
2. LAO GOVERNEMENT POSITIONS IN THE PROXIMITY OF THE PLAIN OF JARS ARE REPORTED TO BE STILL UNDER IN-TERMITTENT NORTH VIETNAMESE ARTILLERY, ROCKET AND MORTAR FIRED. SEVERAL SMALL UNIT CLASHES WERE ALSO REPORTED IN THE SAME GENERAL AREA.
3. GOVERNMENT GROUP IN THE VICINITY OF THE ROYAL CAPITAL OF VIENTIANE MOVED THEIR POSITIONS FORWARD TOWARD THE NORTH AND NORTHEAST AGAINST SPORADIC NORTH VIETNAMESE RESISTANCE.
5. ACCORDING TO A DELAYED REPORT, NORTH VIETNAMESE UNITS SUFFERED ~~EXCESSIVE~~ SERIOUS LOSSES LAST MONDAY AND TUESDAY IN CLASHES WITH GOVERNMENT ~~INTELLIGENCE~~ FORCES NEAR MOUNG PHALANE IN SOUTH CENTRAL LAOS. SOME 50 NORTH VIETNAMESE TROOPS WERE REPORTED KILLED IN THE CLASHES. ONLY SCATTERED SMALL UNIT SKIRMISHES WERE REPORTED FROM OTHER AREA OF LAOS.

FROM: BARNES

BAN HOUET SAIE

VIENTIANE

USIS

051620 APRIL'71

USIS

PASS TO AC'S USAID

" PRIORITY "

USIS VIENTIANE USINFO DTD 04 APRIL IS REPEATED BELOW FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

1. FIVE MORE PATHET LAOS SOLDIERS RALLIED TO THE GOVERNMENT SIDE IN SOUTH LAOS THIS WEEKEND, BRINGING TO AT LEAST 112 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF COMMUNIST SOLDIER WHO RECENTLY RALLIED TO THE GOVERNMENT.
2. LAO MILITARY HEADQUARTERS IN PAKSE SAID TODAY THAT THE LATEST ARRIVALS BROUGHT THEIR FAMILIES WITH THEM, AS WELL AS THEIR WEAPONS AND OTHER MILITARY EQUIPMENT.
3. IN THE MEANTIME, THE SITUATION NEAR THE PLAIN OF JARS IN NORTH CENTRAL LAOS REMAINS SERIOUS WITH NORTH VIETNAMESE GUNNERS KEEPING UP HEAVY SHELLING OF GOVERNMENT POSITIONS NEAR BAN NA .A GOVERNMENT OUTPOST SOME FOUR KILOMETERS WEST OF BAN NA WAS ATTACKED FRIDAY NIGHT BY NORTH VIETNAMESE GROUND UNITS BUT THE DEFENDERS STOOD THEIR GROUND. ALSO ON FRIDAY, ANOTHER GOVERNMENT OUTPOST EAST SOUTHEAST OF THE PLAIN OF JARS WAS LOST FOLLOWING A DETERMINED NORTH VIETNAMESE ATTACK. ~~EXPIRED~~
4. SEVERAL NEW CLASHES WERE REPORTED SATURDAY AROUND THE ROYAL CAPITAL OF LUANG PRABANG. GOVERNMENT UNITS TRYING TO MOVE OUTWARD AND OCCUPY NEW POSITIONS, ENCOUNTERED HEAVY NORTH VIETNAMESE RESISTANCE AND WERE FORCED TO RETURN TO THEIR INITIAL DEFENSE PERIMETER.
5. ONLY SCATTERED SMALL UNIT SKIRMISHES WERE REPORTED FROM OTHER AREAS OF LAOS.

FROM BARNES.

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

USIS

051720 APRIL'71

USIS

PASS TO AC'S USAID

" PRIORITY "

USIS VIENTIANE USINFO DTD 02 APRIL IS REPEATED BELOW FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

II

1. LAO GOVERNMENT TROOPS WERE REPORTED FRIDAY TO HAVE IMPROVED THEIR POSITIONS AROUND THE ROYAL CAPITAL OF ~~XX~~ LP GOVERNMENT TROOPS FANNENOUT TOWARD ~~NORTH~~ NORTH AND NORTHEAST OF THE CITY, OCCUPYING SEVERAL HIGH GROUND POSITIONS AGAINST ONLY LIGHT NORTH VIETNAMESE OPPOSITION.

2. IN NORTH CENTRAL LAOS, GOVERNMENT POSITIONS NEAR BAN AN, JUST WEST OF THE PLAIN OF JARS, ARE STILL UNDER INTERMITTENT, BUT HEAVY, NORTH VIETNAMESE GUN AND ROCKET FIRE. ROYAL LAO ARTILLERY RESPONDED, FIRING BACK AT SUSPECTED NORTH VIETNAMESE GUN SITES. GOVERNMENT UNITS, OPERATING JUST WEST OF BAN NA, ENGAGED NORTH VIETNAMESE FORCES IN A GROUND ACTION, KILLING AT LEAST ELEVEN COMMUNIST SOLDIERS SWEEP OF THE BATTLE GROUND DISCLOSED ANOTHER TWENTY-ONE NORTH VIETNAMESE SOLDIERS KILLED BY LAO AIRPLANES SUPPORTING GOVERNMENT TROOPS. A QUANTITY OF WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION WAS ALSO SEIZED BY THE GOVERNMENT UNIT.

FROM: BARNES.

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

USIS

061050 APRIL'71

USIS

PASS TO AC'S USAID.

"PRIORITY"

USIS VTE USINFO DTD 05 APRIL IS REPEATED BELOW FOR YOUR INFORMATION:
VIETNAMESE

1. ~~NORTH VIETNAM~~ PRESSURE AGAINST LAO GOVERNMENT TROOPS WAS REPORTED TO BE ON THE INCREASE TO DAY IN THE AREA SOUTHWEST OF THE PLAIN OF JARS .
2. GOVERNMENT DEFENSE POSITIONS NEAR BAN NA SEEM TO BE THE PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVE OF NORTH VIETNAMESE ATTACKS. BAN NA HAS BEEN SUBJECTED TO ~~HEAVY~~ BOMBARDMENT BY ROCKETS MORTARS AND ARTILLERY FOR OVER TWO WEEKS. EARLY SUNDAY MORNING GOVERNMENT *TROOPS WERE FORCED TO WITHDRAW FROM TWO OUTPOSTS IN THE OUTER DEFENSE PERIMETER OF BAN NA IN THE FACE OF STRONG NORTH VIETNAMESE MORTAR AND GROUND ASSAULTS
3. FURTHER SOUTH GOVERNMENT TROOPS SUFFERED MODERATE TO HEAVY CASUALTIES IN AN UNSUCCESSFUL ATTACK ON NORTH ~~VIETNAMESE~~ HILLTOP POSITIONS SOME FOUR KILOMETERS EAST OF SAM THONG. THIS ~~HIGH~~ HIGH GROUND IS USED BY THE NORTH ~~VIETNAM~~ VIETNAMESE AS A SITE FOR LAUNCHING ROCKETS AT SAM THONG AND LONG TIENG.
4. THE MILITARY SITUATION AROUND THE ROYAL CAPITAL OF LP REMAINS STATIONARY WITH NO SIGNIFICANT CLASHES REPORTED.
5. ONLY SCATTERED SMALL UNIT SKIRMISHES WERE REPORTED FROM OTHER AREAS OF LAOS.

FROM: BARNES

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

USIS

071040 APRIL 1971

USIS

PASS TO AC'S USAID.

" PRIORITY "

USIS VTE USINFO DTD 06 APRIL IS REPEATED BELOW FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

1. RENEWED FIGHTING WAS REPORTED MONDAY AROUND THE ROYAL LAO CAPITAL OF LUANG PRABANG.
2. NORTH VIETNAMESE TROOPS ATTACKED GOVERNMENT POSITIONS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE MEKONG ABOUT FIFTEEN KILOMETERS NORTH AND NORTH EAST OF LUANG PRABANG RESPECTIVELY. AS A RESULT OF ONE ATTACK GOVERNMENT FORCES WITHDREW A SHORT DISTANCE FROM THEIR POSITION, BUT RECAPTURED THE SITE TWO HOURS LATER. AT LEAST SEVEN NORTH VIETNAMESE SOLDIERS WERE KILLED IN THIS ACTION AND GOVERNMENT TROOPS CAPTURED A NUMBER OF WEAPONS AND OTHER MILITARY EQUIPMENT.
3. IN THE SECOND CLASH, GOVERNMENT UNITS REPULSED THE ATTACKERS, KILLING AT LEAST FIVE OF THEM. GOVERNMENT FORCES SUFFERED NO CASUALTIES IN THE ENCOUNTERS.
4. THERE WAS A RELATIVE DECREASE IN MILITARY ACTIVITY IN THE AREA SOUTHWEST OF THE PLAIN OF JARS. THE GOVERNMENT POSITIONS AT BAN NA, WHICH WERE UNDER HEAVY NORTH VIETNAMESE SHELLING FOR MORE THAN TWO WEEKS, RECEIVED ONLY A FEW MORTAR SHELLS IN THE PAST TWENTY-FOUR HOURS. NORTH VIETNAMESE GUNNERS FIRED THREE 122 MILLIMETER ROCKETS INTO THE GOVERNMENT BASE AT LONG TIENG. A CHILD WAS KILLED AND THREE CIVILIANS WOUNDED. DAMAGE WAS REPORTED TO BE VERY LIGHT.
5. FARTHER TO THE WEST OF THE PLAIN OF JARS, COMMUNIST TROOPS EARLY THESDAY ATTACKED GOVERNMENT POSITIONS SOME TWENTY-FIVE KILOMETERS NORTHEAST OF THE TOWN OF MUONG KASY KI THE ATTACK WAS REPULSED WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF GOVERNMENT ARTILLERY.
6. ~~NEARBY~~ ONLY SMALL UNIT SCATTERED CLASHES WERE REPORTED FROM OTHER AREAS OF LAOS

FROM: BARNES

BAN HOUET SAI VIENTIANE

USIS

081030 APRIL'71

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PASS TO AC'S USAID.

" PRIORITY "

USIS VTE USINFO DTD 07 APRIL IS REPEATED BELOW FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

1. NORTH VIETNAMESE CUNNERS RESUMED HEAVY SHELLING OF LAO GOVERNMENT POSITIONS AT BAN NA, JUST WEST OF THE PLAIN OF JARS.
2. BAN NA HAS BEEN UNDER HEAVY BOMBARDMENT BY NORTH VIETNAMESE ARTILLERY, ROCKETS AND MORTARS FOR MORE THAN TWO WEEKS. THE SHELLING WAS A LITTLE LIGHTER FOR THE PAST TWO DAYS, BUT AGAIN BECAME VIOLENT TUESDAY EVENING AND LASTED MOST OF THE NIGHT
3. THE HILLTOP STRONGHOLD OF BAN NA IS LOCATED NEAR THE WESTERN RIM OF THE PLAIN OF JARS, SOME FIFTEEN KILOMETERS NORTH OF LONG TIENG, THE MAIN GOVERNMENT BASE IN THE AREA. BAN NA WAS CAPTURED BY THE NORTH VIETNAMESE DURING THEIR DRY SEASON OFFENSIVE IN MARCH OF 70 AND RECAPTURED BY THE GOVERNMENT IN THE OCT.
4. OLY SCATTERED CLASHES AND THE PATROL SKIRMISHES WERE REPORTED FROM OTHERS AREAS OF LAOS.

FROM: BARNES.

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

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091515 APRIL'71

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PASS TO AC'S USAID.

" PRIORITY "

USIS VTE USINEO DTD 08 APRIL IS REPEATED BELOW FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

1. LAO GOVERNMENT TROOPS WEDNESDAY ABANDONED THE DEFENSE BASE CAMP AT BAN NA JUST WEST OF THE PLAIN OF JARS.
2. BAN NA HAS BEEN UNDER HEAVY NORTH VIETNAMESE SHELLINGS FOR MORE THAN TWO WEEKS. GOVERNMENT TROOPS MOVED OUT OF THE POSITIONS AFTER YET ANOTHER HEAVY BARRAGE OF MORTARS, ROCKETS AND ARTILLERY SHELLS. THEY REPORTEDLY TOOK THEIR WOUNDED WITH THEM.
3. ELSEWHERE IN THE SAME GENERAL AREA, NORTH VIETNAMESE GUNNERS FIRED THREE 122 MILIMETER ROCKETS INTO THE GOVERNMENT BASE OF LONG TIENG, CAUSING LIGHT DAMAGE BUT NO CASUALTIES.
4. THE AREA AROUND THE ROYAL CAPITAL OF LP REMAINS RELATIVELY QUIET. ONLY LIGHT PATROL ACTIVITY WAS REPORTED, WITH GOVERNMENT UNITS STAGING AT LEAST TWO SUCCESSFUL AMBUSHES AGAINST NORTH VIETNAMESE SOLDIERS.
5. ACCORDING TO REPORTS FROM PAKSE THERE PATHET LAO CIVILIAN OFFICIALS ARRIVED WITH THEIR FAMILIES IN THIS SOUTHERN LAO CITY, AFTER RALLYING TO THE GOVERNMENT SIDE ON THE BOLEVENS PLATEAU. THE THREE HELD ADMINISTRATIVE POSITIONS IN THE COMMUNIST OCCUPIED TERRITORY NEAR SARAVANE.
6. THIS BRINGS TO MORE THAN 150 PATHET LAO SOLDIERS AND CIVILIANS WHO RECENTLY JOINED THE GOVERNMENT SIDE IN SOUTHERN LAOS. THEY ALL REPORTED GROWING ENMITY BETWEEN THE PATHET LAO AND THE NORTH VIETNAMESE IN COMMUNIST CONTROLLED AREAS ACCORDING TO THE RALLIERS, THIS ~~EXISTING~~ FRICTION, BORN OUT OF ILL-TREATMENT BY THE NORTH VIETNAMESE OF THE PATHET LAO SOLDIERS AND ~~EX~~ CIVILIANS LEADS TO FREQUENT A BLODDY CONFRONTATIONS.
7. IN VIENTIANE A SCHOOL INSPECTOR CAPTURED A VETERAN PATHET LAO SOLDIER AND TURNED HIM TO OVER TO THE MILITARY AUTHORITIES. THE COMMUNIST SOLDIER, NAMED CHAN LEUT, WHO SERVED WITH THE PATHET LAO FOR SOME TEN YEARS, WAS ON HIS WAY FROM SOUTHERN LAOS TO A NEW ASSIGNMENT IN THE NORTH. HE DECIDED TO STOP AND SEE A FRIEND IN THE VIENTIANE AREA, BUT WENT TO THE WRONG HOUSE. ME. THAN PHOMSOUVAN, WHO LIVES THERE, GUESSED THE INDENTITY OF HIS VISITOR, COLLARED HIM AND TOOK HIM ~~THE~~ TO THE MILITARY HEADQUARTERS IN VIENTIANE.

FROM: BARNES.

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

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101620 APRIL 71

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REPEATED BELOW ~~XX~~ FYI STATE TELEGRAM NO. 057376 DTD APRIL 6, 1971.

QUOTE: WASHINGTON STAR APRIL 1 ARBUCKLE ARTICLE (UNNECESSARY WORDS DELETED)

ENTITLED "WAR TURNS LAOS CAPITAL TO REFUGEE NIGHT MARE".

QUOTE: MORE THAN 9,000 REFUGEES HAVE FLOODED LAO ROYAL CAPITAL, FLEEING COMMUNIST FORCES NORTH OF CITY. INFLUX CAUSING SEVERE SANITATION AND WATER SUPPLY PROBLEMS, LAO AND U.S. OFFICIALS SAID. LUANG PRABANG'S POPULATION 20,000 OFFICIALS ~~XX~~ TOOK CORRESPONDENTS TO SAND ~~XX~~ BAR IN MIDDLE MEKONG RIVER OPPOSITE KING SAVANG VATTHANA'S PALACE, THERE SEVERAL THOUSAND REFUGEES LIVING IN STRAW DEAN-TOS WITHOUT WATER OR SANITATION FACILITIES. SAND BAR ~~XXXX~~ COMPLETELY DEVOID VEGETATION AND EXPOSED BLAZING SUN. SEVERAL REFUGEES ON IS LAND DIED OF DYSENTERY DESPITE TREATMENT SWISS MEDICAL TEAM.

OUTBREAK CHOLERA FEARED. SAND ISLAND JUST FEW HUNDRED SQUARE YARDS IN SIZE AND REFUGEES SQUEEZED LIKE SARDINES. SOME DEAN-TOS RIZHT AT WATER'S EDGE.

PEOPLE CHOSE SET THEMSELVES UP HERE. I DON'T KNOW WHY, WE COULDN'T ~~XX~~ STOP THEM. " AND-OFFICIAL SAID. FOR 2,890. ON BANKS OF MEKONG CONDITIONS JUST AS BAD. HERE THERE TWO GROUPS OF MEO TRIBESMENT AND LAO THEUNG TRIBES. MEO LIVING IN LOWLYING BURNT RICE FIELDS, BLISTEREEN BY SUN AND WIND, BRAISING ~~XX~~ SWIRLING DUST DEVELS. ONLY SHELTER STRAW DEAN-TOS

WATER SCARCE. DYSENTERY AND OTHER TROPICAL DISEASES SUCH AS YAWS PREVALENT.

THEY LIVING OFF U.S. RICE DROPS. NEARBY, IN SEARCH COOLNESS, LAO THEUNG FAMILITIES HAVE BUILT GRASS SHELTERS IN GULLY AMONG RICE FIELDS. GULLY STILL HAS WATER, RAPIDLY DRYING INTO SERIES MUDDY POOLS. WATER STINKS. " WE TRYING TEACH THESE PEOPLE ABOUT SANITATION BUT IT'S DIFFICULT. THEY SQUAT DOWN EVERYWHERE," AN OFFICIAL SAID. BESIDES THIS SQUALOR IS FEAR AMONGST LAO THEUNG. BOTH THEY AND MEOS FROM VILLAGES ON BLACK MOUNTAIN NORTHWEST HERE. BEFORE THAT THEY CAME FROM MUONG SAI ON CHINESE ROAD SYSTEM INTO LAOS. AT MUONG SAI THEY KILLED 15 NORTH VIETNAMESE SOLDIERS IN ORDER ESCATPE. SEVERAL VILLAGES WERE ASSIGNEN EACH SOLDIER. THEN THEY MURDERED THEM ALL AT ONCE. COMMUNISTS HAVE NOT FORGOTTEN. THEY CAUGHT AND EXECUTED THREE LAO THEUNG AT PHOUDUM. OTHERS FEAR RETRIBUTION. EVERY SCHOOL IN CPITAL. ~~XX~~ CITY OFFICIALS SAY LUANG PRABANG'S WATER STORAGE FACILITIES ARE FOR POPULATION INFLUX. THERE IS NO WATER HALF THE DAY. MORE REFUGEES ON WAY HERE. IN VILLAGES NORTH OF HERE ALONG MEKONG PEOPLE COLLECTING POSSESSIONS, JUMPING INTO BOATS AND HEADING FOR ~~XX~~ CAPITAL.

BAN HOUET SAI

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101620 APRIL'71

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CAPITAL.

AT MOUNG KHAM, THREE MILES NORTH OF CAPITAL, PEOPLE JUMPED INTO BOATS AS LAOTIAN TROOPS MOVED UP IN ASSAULT ON COMMUNIST POSITIONS. OFFICIALS EXPECT REFUGEE TOTAL LUNING PRABANG TO REACH 14,000 WITHIN FEW DAYS, FURTHER STRAINING CITY'S MEAGER RESOURCES. END QUOT.

FROM: GUZOWSKI.

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

USIS

130830 Apr. 71

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USIS/LP

AC/BHS

(P R I O R I T Y)

■USIS VIENTIANE USINFO DTD 9 APRIL IS REPEATED BELOW FOR YOUR INFORMATION

1. CLASHES AND ARTILLERY DUELS CONTINUED FRIDAY IN THE AREA SOUTHWEST OF THE PLAIN OF JARS IN NORTH CENTRAL LAOS.
2. THERE IS NO SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN THE SITUATION SOUTHWEST OF THE PLAIN OF JARS SINCE GOVERNMENT TROOPS EVACUATED WEDNESDAY THE BASE CAMP OF BAN NA JUSTWEST OF THE PLAIN. A NUMBER OF SKIRMISHES TOOK PLACE THROUGHOUT THE AREA.
3. THE MILITARY SITUATION AROUND THE ROYAL CAPITAL OF LUANGPRABANG REMAINS UNCHANGED. ONLY LIGHT PATROL ACTIVITY WAS REPORTED NORTHEAST OF THE CAPITAL.
4. THE REST OF THE KINGDOM WAS RELATIVELY QUIET WITH A FEW SCATTERED SKIRMISHES REPORTED IN THE SOUTHERN PART OF THE COUNTRY.

FROM: BARNES.

BAN HOUET SAI VIENTIANE

USIS

130845 Apr. 71

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USIS/LP

AC/BHS

(P R I O R I T Y)

USIS VIENTIANE USINFO DTD 11 APRIL IS REPEATED BELOW FOR YOUR INFORMATION

1. NOSINGIFICANT MILITARY ACTIONS WERE REPORTED SATURDAY AND EARLY SUNDAY IN LAOS.
2. A NUMBER OF SMALL UNIT CLASHES OCCURRED IN THE EASTERN PART OF THE BOLOVEN PLATEAU IN SOUTHERN LAOS, SOUTHWEST OF THE PLAIN OF JARS IN NORTH CENTRAL LAOS, AND IN THE VICINITY OF THE ROYAL CAPITAL OF LUANG PRABANG, IN THE NORTH.

FROM: BARNES.

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

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12 1455 APRIL '71

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PASS TO AC'S USAID

~~REF~~ USIS VIENTIANE USINFO DTD 12 APRIL IS REPEATED BELOW FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

1. LAO GOVERNMENT FORCES MONDAY ENLARGED THEIR DEFENSE PERIMETER AROUND THE ROYAL CAPITAL OF LUANG PRABANG.
2. GOVERNMENT FORCES PROTECTING THE ROYAL CAPITAL MOVED OUTWARD TOWARD THE NORTH AND NORTHEAST, SECURING SEVERAL NEW DEFENSIVE POSITIONS. WHILE FORWARD PATROLS CLASHED WITH NORTH VIETNAMESE UNITS IN THE AREA, THEY MAINTAINED THEIR NEW POSITIONS.
3. A NUMBER OF SMALL ~~EN~~ UNIT CLASHES TOOK PLACE IN THE GENERAL AREA ~~XXXX~~ SOUTHWEST ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ OF THE PLAIN OF JARS, AND NORTH VIETNAMESE GUNNERS SHELLED GOVERNMENT POSITIONS JUST SOUTH OF THE ABANDONED BASE CAMP OF BAN NA.
4. NO SIGNIFICANT MILITARY ACTIVITY WAS REPORTED FROM OTHER AREAS OF LAOS.

FROM: MCGINLEY

Classified

BAN HOUET SAI

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170625 Apr. 71

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AC/BHS

(P R I O R I T Y)

USIS VIENTIANE USINFO DTD 11, APRIL IS REPEATED BELOW FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

1. THE MILITARY SITUATION IN LAOS AS OF WEDUESDAY REMAINS BASICALLY UNCHANGED.
2. LAO GOVERNMENT UNITS ARE CONDUCTING PATROL ACTIVITIES A LONG THEIR DEFENSE PRIMETER NORTH AND NORTHEAST OF THE ROYAL CAPITAL OF LUANGPRABANG.
3. SEVERAL SMALL UNIT CLASHES WERE REPORTED IN THE GENERAL AREA SOUTHWEST OR THE PLAIN OF JARS IN NORTH CENTRAL LAOS. ALSO, IN THE SAME AREA, NORTH ~~VIENTIANE~~ VIETNAMESE GUNNERS KEPT UP HEAVY SHELLINGS OF REMAINING GOVERNMENT POSITIONS IN THE VICINITY OF THE A BANDONED BASE CAMP OF BAN NA.
4. ONLY SCATTERED PATROL SKIRMISHES WERE REPORTED FROM OTHER REGIONS OF LAOS.

FROM: MCGINLEY.

(PM)

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

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170646 Apr. 71

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AC/BHS

(P R I O R I T Y)

USIS VIENTIANE USINFO DTD 15 APRIL IS REPEATED BELOW FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

- 1.COMMUNIST SOLDIERS IN NORTH CENTRAL LAOS EXECUTED EIGHT UNARMED ~~INDIAN~~ CIVILIANS, AMONG THEM ONE SMALL CHILD AND FOUR WOMEN.
- 2.ACCORDING TO LAO GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES A SMALL BUS TRAVELING TOWARD THE REFUGEE CENTER AT BAN SON, SOME NINETY KILOMETERS NORTH OF VIENTIANE, WAS AMBUSHED TUESDAY ON THE ROAD ABOUT TWENTY-SEVEN KILOMETERS SOUTH OF THE CENTER. AFTER STOPPING THE VEHICLE WITH ROCKET FIRE, THE PATHET LAO SOLDIERS DRAGGED THE OCCUPANTS OUT AND SHOT THEM AT CLOSE RANGE.
- 3.MEANWHILE, THE MILITARY SITUATION IN LAOS THURSDAY REMAINED UNCHANGED. SEVERAL CLASHES WERE REPORTED IN THE GENERAL AREA SOUTHWEST OF THE PLAIN OF JARS AND NORTH VIETNAMESE GUNNERS SHELLED GOVERNMENT POSITIONS SOUTH OF TA TAM BLUENG.
- 4.ONLY MINOR CONTACTS WERE REPORTED FROM OTHER REGIONS OF LAOS.

FROM: MCGINLEY.

(PM)

YIEN BAN HOUVEI SAI

VIENTIANE

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PASS TO AC'S USAID.

* PRIORITY *

USIS VIENTIANE USINFO DTD 17 APRIL IS REPEATED BELOW FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

1. NORTH VIETNAMESE FORCES AROUND THE ROYAL LAO CAPITAL OF LUANG PRABANG RENEWED THEIR OFFENSIVE ACTIVITIES THURSDAY NIGHT AND FRIDAY WITH HEAVY MORTARING OF GOVERNMENT POSITIONS EAST NORTHEAST AND EAST OF THE CITY.
2. ONE GOVERNMENT POSITION, SOME SIX KILOMETERS EAST OF LUANG PRABANG AIRPORT, HAD TO BE ABANDONED AFTER THE DEFENDERS SUFFERED A NUMBER OF CASUALTIES FROM THE PROLONGED SHELLING. OTHER POSITIONS SHELLLED ARE LOCATED ABOUT NINETEEN KILOMETERS EAST NORTHEAST OF THE CITY.
3. THERE WERE ALSO REPORTS OF SEVERAL PATROL CLASHES ALONG THE DEFENSE PERIMETER~~E~~ AROUND LUANG PRABANG.
4. NORTH VIETNAMESE GUNNERS CONTINUED FRIDAY AND SATURDAY SHELLING GOVERNMENT POSITIONS WEST OF THE PLAIN OF JARS. A NUMBER OF SMALL UNIT SKIRMISHES TOOK PLACE IN THE GENERAL AREA SOUTHWEST OF THE PLAIN.
5. ACCORDING TO A DELAY-ED REPORT, A GOVERNMENT UNIT PATROLLING SOME FORTY KILOMETERS NORTH OF VIENTIANE HEARD WEDNESDAY SOUNDS OF A SHARP FIRE-FIGHT IN THE IMMEDIATE VICINITY GOVERNMENT PATROLS, SENT TO INVESTIGATE, FOUND NUMEROUS TRACES OF A VIGOROUS ENGAGEMENT APPARENT-~~LY~~ BETWEEN NORTH VIETNAMESE AND PATHET LAO TROOPS, AS THERE WERE NO OTHER GOVERNMENT FORCES ~~IN~~ THE AREA. THERE WERE INDICATIONS OF CASUALTIES IN THE SHARP CONFLICT.
6. ABOUT THREE WEEKS AGO, MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED PATHET LAO SOLDIERS, WHO RALLIED TO THE GOVERNMENT SIDE IN SOUTHERN LAOS, REPORTED A GROWING ENMITY BETWEEN THE NORTH VIETNAMESE AND THE PATHET LAO IN THE SOUTH.

FROM: BARNES

BAN HOUET SAI

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PASS TO AC'S USAID

" PRIORITY "

USIS VIENTIANE USINFO DTD 18 APRIL IS REPEATED BELOW FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

1. THE MILITARY SITUATION IN LAOS REMAINED SUNDAY VIRTUALLY UNCHANGED WITH OCCASIONAL SHELLINGS OF GOVERNMENT POSITIONS AND SPORADIC CLASHES REPORTED ALONG THE DEFENSE PERIMETER AROUND THE ROYAL CAPITAL OF LP AND IN THE GENERAL AREA SOUTHWEST OF THE PLAIN OF JARS.
2. NORTH VIETNAMESE GUNNERS MAINTAINED MORTAR AND ROCKET FIRE AGAINST GOVERNMENT POSITIONS WEST OF THE ABANDONED BASE CAMP OF BAN NA NEAR THE PLAIN OF JARS WITH LAO ARTILLERY FIRING BACK AT SUSPECTED COMMUNIST GUN EMPLACEMENTS. SEVERAL SMALL UNIT SKIRMISHES WERE ^{reported} ~~REPORTED~~ EAST AND NORTHEAST OF THE MAIN GOVERNMENT BASE OF LONG ~~THI~~ TIENG.
3. ONLY SCATTERED PATROL ENCOUNTERS WERE REPORTED FROM OTHER REGIONS OF LAOS.

RE

FROM: BARNS.

BA, HOUEI SAI

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PASS TO USAID'S AC

" PRIORITY "

USIS VTE USINFO DTD 19 APRIL IS REPEATED BELOW FOR YOUR INFO:

1. GOVERNMENT FORCES HAVE IMPROVED THEIR DEFENSIVE POSITIONS AROUND THE ROYAL LAO CAPITAL OF LUANG PRABANG.
2. CONTINUING THEIR OPERATION TO ENLARGE THE PERIMETER AROUND THE ROYAL CAPITAL GOVERNMENT UNITS MOVED EAST AND NORTHEAST SUNDAY TO OCCUPY SEVERAL HIGH GROUND POSITIONS. THESE POSITIONS HAD BEEN CONTROLLED BY NORTH VIETNAMESE TROOPS SINCE MARCH 21, WHEN THE COMMUNISTS LAUNCHED A LARGE SCALE ASSAULT AGAINST GOVERNMENT TROOPS IN THE AREA, TOGETHER WITH A ROCKET AND MORTAR ATTACK ON LUANG PRABANG AIRPORT.
3. THE SUNDAY OPERATION BY GOVERNMENT ~~TROOPS~~ TROOPS WAS SUPPORTED BY TACTICAL AIR STRIKES. THE GOVERNMENT TROOPS MET NO OPPOSITION FROM THE NORTH VIETNAMESE WHEN THEY ADVANCED ON THE HIGH GROUND POSITIONS.
4. FURTHER NORTH, HOWEVER, A GOVERNMENT UNIT WAS STOPPED BY STRONG FIRE FROM ENTRENCHED NORTH VIETNAMESE TROOPS.
5. IN THE GENERAL AREA SOUTHWEST OF THE PLAIN OF JARS, NORTH VIETNAMESE GUNNERS CONTINUED SHELLING GOVERNMENT POSITIONS WEST AND SOUTH OF THE ABANDONED BASE CAMP OF BAN NA. GOVERNMENT ARTILLERY FIRED BACK AT SUSPECTED COMMUNIST GUN EMPLACEMENTS. SMALL UNIT CLASHES WERE ALSO REPORTED THROUGHOUT THE AREA.
6. OTHER REGIONS OF LAOS WERE REPORTED RELATIVELY CALM.

FROM: BARNES.

BAN HOUET SAI

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PASS TO AC'S USAID.

" PRIORITY "

USIS VTE USINFO DTD 19 APRIL IS REPEATED BELOW FOR YOUR INFO:

1. TWO MORE RANKING PL OFFICERS RALLIED TO THE GOVERNMENT SIDE IN SOUTHERN LAOS MONDAY.
2. ACCORDING TO REPORTS REACHING VTE, A PL BATTALION COMMANDER AND A COMPANY COMMANDER FROM THE SAME BATTALION ARRIVED IN PAKSE AND DECLARED THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE ROYAL LAO GOVERNMENT. THE BATTALION COMMANDER, LIEUTENANT COLONEL SOUTCHAI, SERVED WITH THE PL FOR EIGHTEEN YEARS. HE SAID HE WAS RECENTLY RELIEVED OF COMMAND OF THE ELEVENTH PL BATTALION BY THE RANKING NORTH VIETNAMESE OFFICER, BUT WAS ALLOWED TO GO ON LEAVE TO VISIT HIS FAMILY. HE WAS JOINED BY ONE OF HIS FORMER COMPANY COMMANDERS, KHAM PHAN. BOTH OFFICERS CONTACTED ROYAL LAO MILITARY AUTHORITIES IN PAKSE AND ASKED TO JOIN THE GOVERNMENT SIDE.
3. SOME FOUR WEEKS AGO, WELL OVER ONE HUNDRED PL OFFICERS AND MEN RALLIED IN SOUTHERN LAOS TO THE GOVERNMENT SIDE. THEY REPORTED A GROWING ENMITY BETWEEN THE PL AND THE NORTH VIETNAMESE IN SOUTHERN LAOS. ACCORDING TO THE RALLIERS, THE NORTH VIETNAMESE MISTREAT BOTH THE CIVILIANS AND THE PL SOLDIERS UNDER THEIR CONTROL.
4. IN SOUTH CENTRAL LAOS, COMMUNIST GUNNERS FIRED TWENTY 122 MILLIMETER ROCKETS INTO A SMALL VILLAGE EAST OF SEBANG HIENG. THREE VILLAGERS WERE KILLED AND THREE WOUNDED THERE ARE NO MILITARY ~~THE~~ / IN THE VICINITY OF THE VILLAGE.
~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ TARGETS
5. MEANWHILE THE MILITARY SITUATION AROUND THE ROYAL CAPITAL OF LP HAS BEEN IMPROVED FOLLOWING SEIZURE BY GOVERNMENT FORCES OF SEVERAL HIGH GROUND POSITIONS NORTHEAST OF THE CAPITAL. NORTH VIETNAMESE TROOPS RETREATED SUNDAY WITH OUT A FIGHT, BUT ON MONDAY THEY MORTARED THE NEW/~~NEW~~ POSITIONS. GOVERNMENT UNITS HELD THEIR GROUND.
GOVERNMENT
6. IN THE ~~TH~~ AREA SOUTHWEST OF THE PLAIN OF JARS, NORTH VIETNAMESE GUNNERS CONTINUED SHELLING GOVERNMENT POSITIONS WEST AND SOUTH OF THE ABANDONED BASE CAMP OF BAN NA. SEVERAL SMALL UNIT CLASHES TOOK PLACE IN THE SAME GENERAL AREA.

FROM: BARNES.

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

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PASS TO AC'S USIAD.

" PRIORITY"

USIS VTE ~~USINFOR~~ DTD 21 APRIL IS REPEATED BELOW FOR YOUR INFO:

1. THERE HAS BEEN NO SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN THE MILITARY SITUATION IN LAOS WEDNESDAY
2. SCATTERED CLASHES AND ARTILLERY EXCHANGES WERE REPORTED AROUND THE OUTER DEFENSE
AREA
PERIMETER OF THE ROYAL CAPITAL OF LUANG PRABANG AND IN THE ~~GENERAL~~ ~~AREA~~ SOUTHWEST
OF THE PLAIN OF JARS. A FEW PATROL ENCOUNTERS TOOK PLACE IN OTHER REGIONS OF LAOS.
3. ACCORDING TO REPORTS FROM PAKSE IN SOUTHERN LAOS, TWO PATHET LAO CIVILIAN OFFICIALS
~~W~~
RALLIED WEDNESDAY TO THE GOVERNMENT SIDE, BRINGING THEIR FAMILIES WITH THEM.
4. OVER THE PAST ~~SEVERAL~~ SEVERAL WEEKS WELL OVER ONE HUNDRED OFFICERS AND MEN FROM
PATHET LAO UNITS CAME OVER TO THE GOVERNMENT SIDE IN SOUTHERN LAOS. THEY ALL REPORTED
SHARP AND GROWING FRICTION BETWEEN THE PATHET LAO AND THE NORTH VIETNAMESE OVER
THE ILL-TREATMENT OF LAO CIVILIANS AND PATHET LAO SOLDIERS BY THE NORTH VIETNAMESE
OVERLORDS.

FROM: BARNES

BAN HOUAISAI

VIENTIANE

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231200 APRIL 71

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PASS TO AC'S USAID

// PRIORITY //

USIS VTE USINFOR DTD 22 APRIL IS REPEATED BELOW FOR YOUR INFO:

1. LAO GOVERNMENT FORCES WEDNESDAY FURTHER EXTENDED THEIR DEFENSE PERIMETER AROUND THE ROYAL CAPITAL OF LUANG PRABANG.
2. GOVERNMENT UNITS, ADVANCING AGAINST LIGHT NORTH VIETNAMESE OPPOSITION, SECURED TWO LOCALITIES NORTHEAST OF THE CITY ALONG ROUTE FOUR AND ONE FARTHER EAST.
3. SCATTERED ELASHES AND SPORADIC ARTILLERY EXCHANGES WERE REPORTED IN THE GENERAL AREA SOUTHWEST OF THE PLAIN OF JARS.
4. SKIRMISHES WERE ALSO REPORTED IN SOUTHERN LAOS. ONE TOOK PLACE ABOUT FIVE MILES NORTH OF PAKSONG IN THE CENTRAL PART OF THE BOLO VENS PLATEAU.
5. ACCORDING TO A DELAYED REPORT, A PATHET LAO UNIT CLASHED WITH A NORTH VIETNAMESE PATROL LAST WEEK SOME THIRTY-FIVE KILOMETERS EAST OF KHONG SEDONE IN SOUTHERN LAOS. IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER THIS CLASH WAS DUE TO MISTAKEN IDENTIFICATION OR TO THE ENMITY THAT HAS BEEN REPORTED GROWING BETWEEN THE PATHET LAO AND THE NORTH VIETNAMESE IN THAT REGION OF LAOS. THREE NORTH VIETNAMESE SOLDIERS WERE KILLED AND TWO PATHET LAO TROOPERS WERE WOUNDED IN THE ACTION.

FROM: BARNES

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

USIS

271550 APRIL '71

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USIS

PASS TO AC'S UNLID.

(DTD 26 APRIL 1971.)

1. ONE MORE GROUP OF PATHET LAO SOLDIERS RALLIED TO THE ROYAL LAO GOVERNMENT SIDE SUNDAY IN PAKSANE, SOME ONE HUNDRED KILOMETERS EAST OF VIENTIANE.
2. THE GROUP OF EIGHTEEN FULLY ARMED COMMUNIST SOLDIERS, LED BY THEIR COMPANY COMMANDER AND DEPUTY COMMANDER, CAME OVER TO THE GOVERNMENT SIDE AND INDICATED THAT OTHER SOLDIERS OF THE SAME COMPANY WILL FOLLOW SHORTLY.
3. THIS IS THE FIRST PATHET LAO UNIT TO JOIN THE GOVERNMENT SIDE IN NORTHERN LAOS. RECENTLY, WELL OVER ONE HUNDRED PATHET LAO OFFICERS AND MEN RALLIED TO THE GOVERNMENT IN SOUTHERN LAOS. THEY ALL REPORTED THAT THERE IS GROWING FRICTION BETWEEN THE NORTH VIETNAMESE AND THE PATHET LAO IN THAT AREA.
4. THE NEW RALLIERS IN PAKSANE CONFIRMED THE GROWING ENEMITY BETWEEN THE PATHET LAO AND THE NORTH VIETNAMESE STEMMING FROM ILL-TREATMENT OF CIVILIANS BY THE NORTH VIETNAMESE. ACCORDING TO THE TESTIMONY OF THE RALLIERS, THE NORTH VIETNAMESE FORCE EVEN CHILDREN AND OLD PEOPLE TO ACT AS PORTERS FOR THEIR ~~TRX~~ TROOPS. THE RALLIERS SAID THAT FOR A LONG TIME THEY WERE AFRAID TO COME OVER TO THE GOVERNMENT SIDE BECAUSE THE NORTH VIETNAMESE TOLD THEM THE GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE THEM EXECUTED LATELY, HOWEVER, THEY HEARD RADIO APPEALS FROM THEIR COLLEAGUES WHO HAD RALLIED IN SOUTHERN LAOS, AND THAT CONVINCED THEM THAT THEY HAD NO THING TO FEAR.
5. IN THE MEANTIME, LAO GOVERNMENT FORCES KEEP EXPANDING THEIR DEFENSE PERIMETER AROUND THE ROYAL CAPITAL OF LUANG PRABANG. GOVERNMENT UNITS ADVANCING SATURDAY AND SUNDAY AGAINST LIGHT NORTH VIETNAMESE OPPOSITION OCCUPIED POSITIONS ABOUT TWENTY KILOMETERS NORTHEAST AND EAST OF THE CAPITAL CITY.
6. IN THE GENERAL AREA SOUTHWEST OF THE PLAIN OF JARS, NORTH VIETNAMESE GUNNERS CONTINUED SHELLING SEVERAL GOVERNMENT POSITIONS. A NUMBER OF CLASHES WERE ALSO REPORTED IN THE AREA, ONE ONLY THREE KILOMETERS SOUTHEAST OF THE MAIN GOVERNMENT BASE OF LONG TIENG.
7. SEVERAL SKIRMISHES TOOK PLACE OVER THE WEEKEND IN THE VICINITY OF THAKHEK IN SOUTH CENTRAL LAOS, WHILE ONLY LIGHT ACTIVITY WAS REPORTED FROM THE SOUTHERN REGION OF THE COUNTRY.

FROM: BANNES

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

USISX

281125 APRIL '71

BX

USIS

PASS TO AC'S UNAD

" PRIORITY "

(DTD 27 APRIL 71)

1. LAO MILITARY AUTHORTIES REPORTED NO ~~SIGNIFICANT~~ SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN THE MILITARY SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY TUESDAY.
2. THE AREA AROUND THE ROYAL CAPITAL OF LUANG PRABANG REMAINED ~~RELATIVELY~~ RELATIVELY QUIET, WITH GOVERNMENT FORCES REGROUPING AFTER THEIR ADVANCE TO NEW DEFENSIVE POSITIONS ABOUT TWENTY KILOMETERS NORTHEAST AND EAST OF THE CITY.
3. A FEW MINOR CLASHES AND SMALL SCALE SHELLING WERE REPORTED FROM OTHER REGIONS OF LAOS.
4. ACCORDING TO LAO MILE SOURCES , SEVERAL MORE PL SOLDIERS RALLIED TO THE GOVERNMENT SIDE IN PAKSANE IN CENTRAL LAOS, WHE WHERE EIGHTEEN PL OFFICERS AND MEN HAD RALLIED LAST SUNDAY. ALL BELONG TO THE TWENTYSECOND INDEPENDENT PL COMPANY ~~THE~~ STATION AREA THE COMPANY COMMANDER, CAPTAIN VANNA, SAID THAT HE AND HIS MEN HAD BEEN READY FOR A LONG TIME TO COME OVER TO THE GOVERNMENT SIDE BUT WERE AFRAID BECAUSE THE NORTH VIETNAMESE TOLD THEM THEY WOULD BE EXECUTED. THEY MADE UP THEIR MINDS LATELY, WHEN THEY HEARD A RADIO APPEAL BY OTHER PATHET LAO OFFICERS WHO RALLIED TO THE GOVERNMENT A FEW WEEKS AGO IN SOUTHERN LAOS.
5. LIKE THEIR COLLEAGUES IN SOUTHERN LAOS, THE RALLIERS IN PAKSANE ~~HE~~ REPORTED A WIDNING RIFT BETWEEN THE NORTH VIETNAMESE AND THE PL, CAUSED BY ILLTREATMENT OF LAO CIVILIANS AND PL MILITARY BY THE NORTH VIETNAMESE.

FROM: BARNES.

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

USIS

291135 APRIL'71

BX

USIS

PASS TO USAID AC

" PRIORITY "

(DTD 28 APRIL 71)

1. NO SIGNIFICANT CHANGE WAS REPORTED WEDNESDAY IN THE MILITARY SITUATION IN LAOS.

2. FOUR MORE PL SOLDIERS RALLIED TO THE GOVERNMENT SIDE IN SOUTHERN LAOS WHERE COMMUNIST WELL OVER ONE HUNDRED OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE ~~LAOSIAN~~ FORCES HAVE REJOINED THE GOVERNMENT IN RECENT WEEKS.

3. NORTH VIETNAMESE GUNNERS FIRED FOUR 122-MILIMETERS ROCKET INTO THE GOVERNMENT DEFENSE BASE ~~NAME~~ AT LONG TIENG, SOUTHWEST OF THE PLAIN OF JARS, BUT CAUSED NO DAMAGE AND NO CASUALTIES.

4. ONLY SCATTERED SMALL UNIT CLASHES WERE REPORTED FROM OTHER REGIONS OF LAOS.

FROM: BARNES

V

BAN HOUET SAI VIENTIANE

USIS

201115 APRIL '71

BX

USIS

PASS TO AC'S USIAM

" PRIORITY "

(DTD 29 APRIL 71.)

1. THE ROYAL LAO GOVERNMENT IS READY TO WELCOME BA-CK TO VTE THE SPECIAL ENVOY OF PATHET LAO LEADER PRINCE SOUPHANOUVONG.
2. IN A BRIEF COMMUNIQUE ISSUED THURSDAY, THE ROYAL LAO ~~REVERN~~ GOVT. STATED THAT AT A CABINET MEETING IT HAD EXAMINED THE LATEST PROPOSALS OF THE PATHET LAO LEADER. IN HIS MESSAGE OF APRIL 26 TO PRIME MINISTER SONVANNA PHOUMA, PRINCE SOUPHANOUVONG SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO SEND TO VTE HIS SPECIAL ENVOY TIAO SOUK VONG SACK. THE GOVT. IN ITS COMMUNIQUE ADDED THAT IT WOULD BE PLEASED TO WELCOME BACK THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE
3. IN THE MEANTIME, THE MILITARY SITUATION IN LAOS REMAINS VIRTUALLY UNCHANGED. ONLY LIGHT CLASHES AND SPORADIC ARTILLERY EXCHANGES WERE REPORTED FROM ALL MILITARY REGIONS IN LAOS.
4. IN ONE INCIDENT, NORTH VIETNAMESE GUNNERS THURSDAY AFTERNOON FIRED FIVE 122-MILLIMETER ROCKETS INTO THE GOVT. BASE OF LONG TIENG, SOUTHWEST OF THE PLAIN OF JARS. THE ROCKETS DESTROYED SEVERAL HUTS AND KILLED ONE CHILD AND THREE OTHER CIVILIANS.

FROM: BARNES

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

USIS

031444 MAY '71

BX

~~XXXX~~ USIS

PASS TO AC'S USAID

" PRIORITY "

(DTD 30 APRIL 71)

1. THERE IS NO SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN THE MILITARY SITUATION IN LAOS, THOUGH SEVERAL SMALL UNIT CLASHES AND AT LEAST ONE ROCKET ATTACK WERE REPORTED THURSDAY AND FRIDAY FROM VARIOUS PARTS OF THE COUNTRY.
 2. NORTH VIETNAMESE GUNNERS THURSDAY FIRED FOURTEEN 122 MILLIMETER ROCKETS INTO THE GOVERNMENT DEFENSE BASE AT LONG TIENG, SOUTHWEST OF THE PLAIN OF JARS . THE ROCKETS HIT A CLUSTER OF SMALL HOUSES, WOUNDING SIX CIVILIANS.
 3. ACCORDING TO REPORTS REACHING VIENTIANE, AT LEAST EIGHT PATROL CLASHES OCCURRED THURSDAY IN THE IMMEDIATE VICINITY OF MUONG PHALANE IN SOUTH CENTRAL LAOS, ABOUT EIGHTY KILOMETERS EAST OF SAVANNAKHET.
 4. TWO LIGHT CONTACTS WITH NORTH VIETNAMESE FORCES WERE REPORTED BY GOVERNMENT TROOPS GUARDING THE PERIMETER NORTH AND NORTHEAST OF THE ROYAL CAPITAL OF LUANG PRABANG
- IN

FROM: BARNES

BAN HOUET SAI VIENTIANE

USIS

031502 MAY'71

BX

USIS

PASS TO AC'S USAID

" PRIORITY "

(DTD 1 MAY 71)

1. LAO GOVERNMENT FORCES OPERATING IN THE VICINITY OF THE ROYAL CAPITAL OF LUANG PRABANG CONTINUE TO EXPAND THEIR PERIMETER NORTHEAST AND EAST OF THE CITY. *
2. GOVERNMENT TROOPS FRIDAY OCCUPIED SEVERAL NEW HIGH GROUND POSITIONS INCLUDING A HELICOPTER LANDING STRIP SOME TWENTY KILOMETERS EAST OF LUANG PRABANG. THREE SMALL UNIT CLASHES WERE REPORTED IN THE SAME GENERAL AREA, BUT OTHERWISE GOVERNMENT UNITS ENCOUNTERED ONLY LIGHT NORTH VIETNAMESE OPPOSITION.
3. NORTH VIETNAMESE GUNNERS SATURDAY FIRED FIVE 122 MILLIMETER ROCKETS INTO THE GOVERNMENT DEFENSE BASE AT LONG ~~TIENG~~ TIENG, SOUTHWEST OF THE PLAIN OF JARS BUT CAUSED NO DAMAGE AND NO CASUALTIES.
4. PATROL CLASHES CONTINUED FOR THE SECOND DAY IN A ROW IN THE IMMEDIATE VICINITY OF MUONG PHALANE IN SOUTH CENTRAL LAOS, SOME EIGHTY KILOMETERS EAST OF SAVANNAKHET.
5. THE REST OF THE COUNTRY WAS RELATIVELY QUIET WITH A FEW SCATTERED SKIRMISHES REPORTED FROM THE BOLOVENS PLATEAU/SOUTHERN LAOS.

IN

FROM: BARNES

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

USIS

031520 MAY'71

BX

USIS

PASS TO AC'S USAID

" PRIORITY "

(DTD 2 MAY 71)

1. LAO GOVERNMENT TROOPS SATURDAY CONTINUED THEIR ADVANCE NORTH AND NORTHEAST~~OK~~ OF THE ROYAL CAPITAL OF LUANG PRABANG. SOME OF THE NEW POSITIONS OCCUPIED BY GOVERNMENT UNITS ARE AS FAR AS THIRTY KILOMETERS FROM THE CITY, ALMOST WHERE THEY WERE PRIOR TO THE NORTH VIETNAMESE ATTACKS ON MARCH 21 WHICH THREATENED THE CAPITAL.
2. ACCORDING TO REPORTS REACHING VIENTIANE, THERE ARE INDICATIONS OF A NORTH VIETNAMESE BUILD-UP NEAR MUONG PHILANE IN CENTRAL LACS, SOME EIGHTY KILOMETERS EAST OF SAVANNAKHET THERE HAS BEEN A MARKED INCREASE IN NUMBER AND FREQUENCY OF CLASHES IN THE AREA.
3. ONLY SCATTERED, SMALL UNIT CLASHES WERE REPORTED FROM OTHER PARTS OF LAOS.

FROM: BARNES

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

USIS

041516 MAY'71

BX

USIS

PASS TO AC'S DESK.

" PRIORITY "

(DTD 3 MAY 71)

1. LAO GOVERNMENT SOURCES REPORT FROM PAKSANE THAT SIXTEEN FAMILIES OF PATHET LAO SOLDIERS WHO RECENTLY RALLIED TO THE GOVERNMENT SIDE ARRIVED SUNDAY IN THAT CENTRAL LAOS TOWN, ABOUT ONE HUNDRED KILOMETERS EAST OF VIENTIANE.
2. IT WAS EXACTLY A WEEK EARLIER THAT EIGHTEEN PATHET LAO SOLDIERS, LED BY THEIR COMPANY COMMANDER, ARRIVED FULLY ARMED IN PAKSANE TO JOIN THE GOVERNMENT SIDE. THE OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE RALLYING PATHET LAO UNIT REPORTED THAT THE HARSHNESS WITH WHICH THE NORTH VIETNAMESE TREAT LAO CIVILIANS AND PATHET LAO TROOPS CAUSED BITTER ENMITY BETWEEN NORTH VIETNAMESE AND LAO COMMUNISTS. THEY SAID MANY MORE PATHET LAO SOLDIERS ARE READY TO REJOIN THE GOVERNMENT
3. SIMILAR REPORTS WERE BROUGHT BY A LARGER GROUP OF PATHET LAO OFFICERS AND MEN WHO CAME OVER TO THE GOVERNMENT SIDE SEVERAL WEEKS AGO IN SOUTHERN LAOS. TM
4. THE FAMILIES OF PATHET LAO SOLDIERS WHO ARRIVED IN PAKSANE SUNDAY TOLD LAO AUTHORITIES THAT THE NORTH VIETNAMESE HAVE SENT SPECIAL UNITS INTO THE AREA TO PREVENT OTHER PATHET LAO TROOPS FROM JOINING THE GOVERNMENT.
5. IN THE MEANTIME, THE MILITARY SITUATION AROUND THE ROYAL CAPITAL OF LUANG PRABANG IS REPORTED AS STABILIZING, WITH GOVERNMENT FORCES ADVANCING STEADILY NORTH AND NORTHEAST OF THE CITY AGAINST ONLY SPORADIC NORTH VIETNAMESE RESISTANCE.
6. GOVERNMENT TROOPS IN SOUTH CENTRAL LAOS ARE REPORTED ENGAGED IN A BATTLE NEAR MUONG PHALANE AGAINST A NORTH VIETNAMESE FORCE ESTIMATED AT FOUR TO FIVE BATTALIONS. RENEWED NORTH VIETNAMESE PRESSURE AGAINST MUONG PHALANE, SOME EIGHTY KILOMETERS EAST OF SAVANNAKHET, BECAME EVIDENT A FEW DAYS AGO WITH A SHARP INCREASE IN NUMBER OF CLASHES IN THE IMMEDIATE VICINITY OF THE TOWN.
7. NO SIGNIFICANT MILITARY ACTIONS WERE REPORTED FROM OTHER REGIONS OF LAOS.

FROM: BARNES

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

USIS

051435MAY'71

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USIS

PASS TO AC'S USAID.

" PRIORITY "

(DTD 04 MAY 71)

1. IN SOUTH CENTRAL LAOS, NORTH VIETNAMESE TROOPS ARE INCREASING THEIR PRESSURE AGAINST GOVERNMENT UNITS IN THE VICINITY OF MUONG PHALANE, SOME EIGHTY KILOMETERS EAST OF SAVANNAKHET.
2. ACCORDING TO REPORTS REACHING VIENTIANE TUESDAY, HEAVY FIGHTING IS IN PROGRESS EAST AND SOUTH OF MUONG PHALANE. NORTH VIETNAMESE FORCES ARE ESTIMATED AT FOUR BATTALIONS, SUPPORTED BY MORTARS AND ARTILLERY.
3. GOVERNMENT FORCES IN THE AREA OF THE ROYAL CAPITAL OF LUANG PRABANG CLASHES MONDAY WITH SMALL NORTH VIETNAMESE UNIT, BUT CONTINUED THEIR STEADY ADVANCE NORTH AND NORTHEAST OF THE CITY. IN THEIR NORTHERNMOST ADVANCE, GOVERNMENT TROOPS REACHED THE BANKS OF THE PAK OU RIVER, ABOUT THIRTY KILOMETERS FROM LUANG PRABANG.
4. SEVERAL SHARP CLASHES WERE REPORTED IN THE GENERAL AREA SOUTHWEST OF THE PLAIN OF JARS. GOVERNMENT TROOPS THREW BACK NORTH VIETNAMESE ATTACKS IN TWO SEPARATE ENGAGEMENTS SOME FIFTEEN KILOMETERS EAST AND ABOUT THE SAME DISTANCE NORTHEAST OF THE GOVERNMENT DEFENSE BASE AT LONG TIENG. THERE WERE ALSO REPORTS OF SEVERAL ARTILLERY EXCHANGES IN THE SAME GENERAL AREA.

FROM: BARNES

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

USIS

061515 MAY'71

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USIS

PASS TO AC'S USAID.

" PRIORITY "

(DTD 05 MAY 71)

1. LAO GOVERNMENT UNITS IN SOUTH CENTRAL LAOS HAVE ESCAPED THE DANGER OF ENCIRCLEMENT BY SUPERIOR NORTH VIETNAMESE FORCES NEAR MUONG PHALANE AND ARE WITHDRAWING WESTWARD TOWARD DONG HENE.
2. MUONG PHALANE, A SMALL TOWN ON ROUTE NINE SOME EIGHTY KILOMETERS EAST OF SAVANNAKHET, CAME UNDER ATTACK BY ABOUT FOUR NORTH VIETNAMESE BATTALIONS ALMOST A WEEK AGO. GOVERNMENT UNITS IN THE AREA, SUPPORTED BY LAO AIR FORCE PLANES, FOUGHT A SERIES OF DELAY-ING ACTIONS, BUT HAD TO RETREAT BEFORE MOUNTING NORTH VIETNAMESE PRESSURE. ONE LAO FIGHTER PLANE WAS LOST AND THREE WERE DAMAGED BY NORTH VIETNAMESE ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRE.
3. AS REPORTED WEDNESDAY GOVERNMENT FORCES ARE REGROUPING HALF WAY BETWEEN MUONG PHALANE ALONG ROUTE NINE.
4. CLASHES AND ARTILLERY DUELS WERE REPORTED IN THE GENERAL AREA SOUTHWEST OF THE PLAIN OF JARS. ALSO, A NUMBER OF CLASHES TOOK PLACE ON THE BOLOVENS PLATEAU IN SOUTHERN LAOS WHERE, ACCORDING TO REPORTS REACHING VIENTIANE, A NEW NORTH VIETNAMESE BUILD-UP MAY-BE IN PROGRESS.

FROM: BARNES.

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

USIS

071520 MAY '71

BX

USIS

PASS TO AC'S ~~US~~ AID

" PRIORITY "

(DTD 6 MAY 71)

1. COMMUNIST SOLDIERS AMBUSHED A SMALL BUS ON THE ROAD NORTH OF VIENTIANE THURSDAY KILLING TEN OF ITS OCCUPANTS AND WOUNDING FIVE OTHERS.
2. THE BUS, TRAVELLING NORTH OFN ON ROUTE THIRTEEN, WAS AMBUSED ABOUT NINETY KILOMETERS FROM VIENTIANE AT TEN O'clock THURSDAY MORNING. AMONG THE TEN CIVILIANS KILLED WERE THREE WOMEN AND TWO CHILDREN.
3. ELSEWHERE IN LAOS, GOVERNMENT TROOPS WITHDREW FROM THE REGION OF MUONG PHALANE ON ROUTE NINE, SOME EIGHTY KILOMETERS EAST OF SAVANNAKHET. THE AREA IS ~~RELINE~~ NOW IN NORTH VIETNAMESE HANDS.
4. SCATTERED CLASHES AND ARTILLERY DUELS WERE REPORTED FROM THE AREA SOUTHWEST OF THE PLAIN OF JARS, AND AT LEAST ONE CLASH TOOK PLACE ON THE BOLOVENS PLATEAU ~~IN~~ IN SOUTHERN LAOS.
5. GOVERNMENT TROOPS NEAR HONG SA, SOME NINETY KILOMETERS SOUTHWEST OF LUANG PRABANG WERE ATTACKED WEDNESDAY BY AN UNKNOWN SIZE COMMUNIST FORCE. THE FEREFIGT LASTED FOR ABOUT AN HOUR, THEN THE COMMUNIST TROOPS BROKE OFF THE ENGAGEMENT.

FROM: BARNES

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

USIS

~~0908~~ 091654 MAY '71

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USIS

PASS TO AC'S USAID

" PRIORITY "

(DTD 08 MAY 71)

1. ANOTHER OF ~~X~~ A SERIES OF ENEMY ATTACKS AGAINST LAO CIVILIANS TOOK PLACE THREE KILOMETERS NORTHEAST OF PHOU CUM, LANG PRABANG PROVINCE, WHERE FOUR CIVILIANS WERE KILLED BY A SMALL FORCE OF SOLDIERS PRESUMED TO BE NORTH ~~VIENTIANE~~ VIETNAMESE. THE MURDERS OCCURRED THE MORNING OF MAY 4. NO FURTHER DETAILS ARE AVAILABLE AT THIS TIME.

FROM: BARNES.

BAN HOUET SAI VIENTIANE

USIS

121515 MAY'71

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USIS

PASS TO AC'S USAID

" PRIORITY "

(DTD 10 MAY 71)

1. VIENTIANE, 10 MAY-FIFTY FIVE COMMUNIST PATHET LAO SOLDIERS RALLIED TO THE ROYAL LAO GOVERNMENT TODAY AT BAN ITOU, 30 KILOMETERS EAST OF PAKSE IN SOUTHERN LAOS. THE TROOPS WERE LED BY L/COL SENG CHAN, COMMANDING OFFICER OF THE ELEVENTH PATHET LAO BATTALION. ALSO IN THE GROUP WERE ANOTHER LIEUTENANT COLONEL, TWO CAPTAINS, AND TWO FIRST LIEUTENANTS.
2. THIS IS THE SECOND LARGE GROUP OF PATHET LAO TROOPS TO RALLY TO THE GOVERNMENT IN SOUTHERN LAOS IN RECENT WEEKS. IN LATE MARCH NEARLY ONE HUNDRED MEMBERS OF THE PATHET LAO 25 TH BATTALION RALLIED AT PAKSE, FOLLOWED IN SUCCEEDING DAYS BY OTHERS, SOME WITH FAMILIES THEIR NUMBER EVENTUALLY REACHED OVER ONE HUNDRED FIFTY. TODAY'S RALLIERS BRING THE TOTAL IN SOUTHERN LAOS TO WELL OVER TWO HUNDRED.
3. ANOTHER GROUP OF 17 PATHET LAO RALLIED AT PAKSANE, IN CENTRAL LAOS, IN APRIL.
4. THE FIFTY FIVE RALLIERS THAN ARRIVED AT BAN ITOU TODAY CAME FULLY ARMED, AND SURRENDERED THEIR WEAPONS TO GOVERNMENT OFFICERS. WEAPONS BROUGHT IN BY THE PREVIOUS GROUP AT PAKSE WERE RETURNED TO THOSE WHO VOLUNTEERED TO SERVE IN THE GOVERNMENT ARMED FORCES.
5. THE RALLIERS REPORT WIDESPREAD FRICTION BETWEEN PATHET LAO AND NORTH VIETNAMESE TROOPS BECAUSE OF BAD TREATMENT OF THE LAO CIVILIAN POPULATION BY THE NORTH VIETNAMESE. ARMED CLASHES HAVE BEEN REPORTED TAKING PLACE BETWEEN VIETNAMESE FORCES AND PATHET LAO TROOPS INTENT ON RALLYING TO THE GOVERNMENT SIDE.
6. ACCORDING TO THE RALLIERS, IN THE SOUTHERN AREA ALONG THERE ARE MORE THAN A THOUSAND OTHER PATHET LAO WHO WILL RALLY AT THE FIRST OPPORTUNITY TO FREE THEMSELVES OF NORTH VIETNAMESE CONTROL.
7. TODAY'S GROUP SAID THEY WERE ENCOURAGED TO MAKE THEIR MOVE BY GOVERNMENT RADIO AND AIRBORNE LOUDSPEAKER BROADCASTS AND AIRDROPPED LEAFLETS CARRYING APPEALS FROM THEIR PL COLLEAGUES WHO HAD RALLIED EARLIER AT PAKSE.

FROM: BARNES

BAN HOUAISAI

VIENTIANE

USIS

121550 MAY'71

BX

USIS

PASS TO AC'S USAID


" PRIORITY "

(DTD 11 MAY 71)

ON

~~XX~~ DURING LAO CONSTITUTION DAY CEREMONIES AND PARADE ATTENDED BY THE KING/~~HE~~ MAY 11
PRIME MINISTER PRINCE SOUVANNA PHOUMA DELIVERED THE ANNUAL ADDRESS, NOTING THAT THE
CONSTITUTION HAS SURVIVED QTE AGGRESSION FROM WITHOUT, IN-TERNAL ~~E~~ SUBVERSION, AND THE
POLITICAL TROUBLES OF THESE LAST DECADES UNQTE. THE PRIME MINISTER IN HIS ADDRESS MADE
A STRONG APPEAL FOR RECONCILIATION AMONG THE FACTIONS IN LAOS AND CALLED FOR AN END TO
FRATRICIDAL WAR AND THE BEGINNING OF A QTE GENUINELY LIBERAL REVOLUTION UNQTE. HE NOTED
THAT THE PLACE OF THE PATHET LAO IN THE NATIONAL COMMUNITY WAS QTE GUARANTEED BY THE ~~E~~
CONSTITUTION UNQTE AND APPEALED TO THEM TO REJECT THE INFLUENCE OF THE NORTH VIETNAMESE,
WHOM HE ACCUSED OF ARROGANCE AND PLUNDERING LAO TERRITORY. NORTH VIETNAMESE CHARGE NGUYEN
GIAP LEFT THE REVIEWING STAND IN THE MIDST OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH,
EVIDENTLY ~~XAS~~ A GESTURE OF PROTEST.

FROM: BARNES



BAN HOUET SAI VIENTIANE

USIS

141203 MAY '71

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USIS

PASS TO AC'S USAID

" PRIORITY "

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ (DTD 13 MAY)

1. ANOTHER SKIRMISH WAS REPORTED TODAY BETWEEN NORTH VIETNAMESE AND COMMUNIST PATHET LAO TROOPS NEAR SARAVANE IN SOUTHERN LAOS. THERE IS MOUNTING EVIDENCE OF A GROWING RIFT BETWEEN PATHET LAO FORCES AND NORTH VIETNAMESE TROOPS. WITHIN THE LAST SIX WEEKS, MORE THAN TWO HUNDRED PATHET LAO, INCLUDING SOME HIGHER-LEVEL OFFICERS, HAVE JOINED UP WITH ROYAL LAO GOVERNMENT FORCES, CITING ~~XXXX~~ NORTH VIETNAMESE MISTREATMENT OF CIVILIANS, EXCESSIVE RICE TAXATION, ASSASSINATION, AND OPPRESSION AS REASONS FOR THEIR DEFECTIONS. SIGNIFICANTLY, A FIFTEEN OF THE HIGHER-~~RANKING~~ OFFICERS, THREE OF THEM LT COLONELS, HAD SERVED WITH THE PATHET LAO KOMMAND STRUCTURE FOR FROM TEN TO EIGHTEEN YEARS PRIOR TO THEIR DECISION TO REJOIN THE GOVERNMENT

FROM: BARNES

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

USIS

171600 MAY '71

BX

USIS

PASS TO AC'S USAID

" PRIORITY "

(STD 16 MAY 71)

LAO GOVERNMENT TROOPS WITHDREW SUNDAY UNDER HEAVY NORTH VIETNAMESE PRESSURE FROM TWO IMPORTANT DEFENSE POSITIONS ON THE BOLOVENS PLATEAU, ABOUT FORTY KILOMETERS EAST OF PAKSE IN SOUTHERN LAOS.

2. THE NORTH VIETNAMESE OFFENSIVE AGAINST THE TWO POSITIONS, PAKSONG AND BAN HOUET SAI, SOME FIFTEEN KILOMETERS NORTH OF PAKSONG, STARTED SEVERAL DAYS AGO WITH SHELLINGS AND GROUND PROBES. SATURDAY NIGHT NORTH VIETNAMESE TROOPS BEGAN A FULL SCALE OFFENSIVE AND BY SUNDAY NOON ENTERED THE TOWN OF PAKSONG. GOVERNMENT TROOPS WITHDREW FROM THE TOWN. AT ABOUT THE SAME TIME, THE GOVERNMENT GARRISON AT BAN HOUET SAI WAS ORDERED TO EVACUATE ITS ~~POSITION~~ POSITIONS WHICH WERE THREATENED WITH ENCIRCLEMENT. NORTH VIETNAMESE TROOPS WERE REPORTED TO HAVE CUT ROUTE TWENTY-THREE BETWEEN PAKSONG AND PAKSE.

3. GOVERNMENT FORCES STILL HOLD SEVERAL ISOLATED POSITIONS ON ~~THE~~ THE BOLOVENS PLATEAU, BUT THE LOSS OF PAKSONG AND BAN HOUET SAI WOULD PRESENT A SERIOUS THREAT TO THE SECURITY OF THIS AREA IN SOUTHERN LAOS.

4. THE NORTH VIETNAMESE TRIED ONCE BEFORE, ABOUT FIVE MONTHS AGO, TO TAKE BAN HOUET SAI BUT WERE FORCED TO WITHDRAW AFTER ~~SUFFERING~~ HEAVY LOSSES.

SUFFERING

FROM: BARNES.

BAN HOU EI SAI

VIENTIANE

USIS

200911 May 71

USIS

AC

" PRIORITY "

USIS VIENTIANE USINFO DTD 18 MAY IS REPEATED BELOW FOR YOUR INFORMATION

1. THE MILITARY SITUATION IN SOUTHERN LAOS REMAINS SERIOUS WITH SIGNS OF NORTH VIETNAMESE TROOPS ~~CONSOLIDATING~~ CONSOLIDATING THEIR NEW POSITIONS ON THE WESTERN PART OF THE BOLOVENS PLATEAU.
2. NO NEW FIGHTING ERUPTED IN THE ~~MM~~ AREA SINCE THE NORTH VIETNAMESE " BLITZ " OFFENSIVE ON SUNDAY AGAINST PAKSONG AND BAN HOU EI SAI, SOME FORTY-FIVE KILOMETERS EAST AND SIXTY KILOMETERS NORTHEAST OF PAKSE, RESPECTIVELY. AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE, HOWEVER, SPOTTED TRACKS OF NORTH VIETNAMESE TANKS IN THE VICINITY OF BAN HOU EI SAI.
3. THERE ARE NO INDICATIONS OF A DIRECT ~~THREAT~~ THREAT TO THE TOWN OF PAKSE, EVEN THOUGH NORTH VIETNAMESE TROOPS ARE REPORTED ABOUT THIRTY-FIVE KILOMETERS EAST OF THE CITY. AS A PRECAUTIONARY MEASURE AMERICAN AUTHORITIES IN PAKSE DECIDED TO RECOMMEND AN EVACUATION OF DEPENDENTS OF AMERICAN PERSONNEL STATIONED IN PAKSE. ABOUT FIFTY WOMEN AND CHILDREN ARE BEING FLOWN TUESDAY EVENING TO VIENTIANE WHILE MEN, ABOUT ONE HUNDRED OF THEM, REMAIN.
4. ELSEWHERE IN LAOS, THE SITUATION REMAINS UNCLEAR EAST OF SAVANNAKHET IN SOUTH CENTRAL LAOS, WHERE NORTH VIETNAMESE ROCKETS DESTROYED MONDAY ABOUT SEVENTY-FIVE PERCENT OF THE TOWN OF DONG HENE. THE CIVILIAN POPULATION AND THE MILITARY GARRISON OF DONG HENE MOVED OUT OF THE BURNING TOWN IN THE DIRECTION OF SENO, ABOUT HALF WAY BETWEEN DONG HENE AND SAVANNAKHET. IT WAS REPORTED LATE MONDAY NIGHT THAT A GOVERNMENT MILITARY CONVOY WAS AMBUSHED ON THE ROAD EAST OF SENO AND THE SIX TRUCKS OF THE CONVOY HAD TO BE ABANDONED.
5. ONLY SMALL UNIT CLASHES AND LIGHT SHELLINGS WERE REPORTED IN THE AREA SOUTHWEST OF THE PLAIN OF JARS, WHILE NO ENGAGEMENTS TOOK PLACE IN THE REGION OF THE ROYAL CAPITAL OF LUANG PRABANG.
6. ACCORDING TO A DELAYED REPORT NORTH VIETNAMESE TROOPS ATTACKED AND OCCUPIED LAST FRIDAY THE VILLAGE OF BAN MUONG IN NORTH WESTERN LAOS CLOSE TO THE BORDER WITH THAILAND. THE VILLAGE, ABOUT ONE HUNDRED KILOMETERS NORTHWEST OF SAYABOURY, WAS REPORTEDLY ATTACKED BY AT LEAST TWO NORTH VIETNAMESE BATTALION AND THE SMALL GOVERNMENT GARRISON WAS FORCED OUT OF ITS DEFENCES POSITIONS. ²

FROM: BARNES.

YOU'D BETTER GET BETTER SOURCES
OF INFORMATION AS THIS IS B.S. P.P.

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

USIS

221610 MAY '71

BX

USIS

PASS TO AC'S USAID.

" PRIORITY "

(DTD 21 MAY 71)

IN

1. THE MILITARY SITUATION ~~IN~~ LAOS REMAINS VIRTUALLY UNCHANGED.
2. IN SOUTHERN LAOS ONLY ONE CLASH WAS REPORTED BETWEEN GOVERNMENT UNITS AND NORTH VIETNAMESE TROOPS. THE CLASH OCCURRED SOME TEN KILOMETERS WEST OF PAKSONG.
3. FURTHER NORTH, A FEW SCATTERED CLASHES TOOK PLACE SOUTH OF KONG KEK, ABOUT ~~SIX~~-TY KILOMETERS SOUTHEAST OF SAVANNAKHET. ACCORDING TO REPORTS NORTH VIETNAMESE TROOPS ENTERED THE TOWN OF DONG HENE WHICH WAS PRACTICALLY WIPED OUT BY NORTH VIETNAMESE ROCKETS LAST MONDAY. NO CONTACTS, HOWEVER, WERE REPORTED BY THE GOVERNMENT TROOPS REGROUPED WEST OF THE STRICKEN ~~TOWN~~ TOWN.
4. ONLY A FEW MINOR SKIRMISHES AND ONE ARTILLERY EXCHANGE WERE REPORTED FROM THE AREA SOUTHWEST OF THE PLAIN OF JARS.
5. IN THE VICINITY OF THE ROYAL CAPITAL OF LUANG PRABANG, GOVERNMENT FORCES REOCCUPIED SEVERAL LOCALITIES NORTH OF THE NAM OU RIVER, ABOUT THIRTY KILOMETERS NORTHEAST OF THE CAPITAL.
6. GENERAL TIAO SAYAVONG, COMMANDING THE MILITARY REGION OF THE ROYAL CAPITAL, STATED IN AN INTERVIEW THAT THE NORTH VIETNAMESE FORCES IN THE LUANG PRABANG AREA ARE DEFEATED AND WILL NOT BE ABLE FOR SOME TIME TO MOUNT ANY OFFENSIVE OPERATION. THE GENERAL SINGLED OUT THE PILOTS OF THE ROYAL LAO AIR FORCE AND COMMANDO UNITS AS THE REAL HEROES IN THE DEFENSE OF THE ROYAL CAPITAL AT A TIME WHEN THE NORTH VIETNAMESE WERE ONLY FIVE KILOMETERS FROM THE CITY.
7. ACCORDING TO REPORTS FROM PAKSE IN SOUTHERN LAOS, A PATHET LAC SOLDIER BROUGHT TO SAFE-TY INTO GOVERNMENT LINES ELEVEN FAMILIES FROM THE COMMUNIST OCCUPIED TERRITORY.

FROM: BARNES

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

USIS

261447 MAY'71

USIS

PASS TO AC'S USAID.

" PRIORITY "

(DTD 25 MAY 71)

1. THE MILITARY SITUATION IN LAOS TUESDAY REMAINS VIRTUALLY UNCHANGED.
2. GOVERNMENT FORCES PROTECTING THE ROYAL CAPITAL OF LUANG PRABANG CLASHED TWICE MONDAY WITH NORTH VIETNAMESE UNITS SOME THIRTY KILOMETERS NORTHEAST OF THE CAPITAL. IN BOTH CASES THE NORTH VIETNAMESE BROKE THE ENGAGEMENT AFTER A BRIEF EXCHANGE OF FIRE
3. GOVERNMENT POSITIONS AT BOUAM LONG, THIRTY KILOMETERS NORTH OF THE PLAIN OF JARS, WERE SUBJECTED MONDAY TO NORTH VIETNAMESE MORTAR AND ARTILLERY FIRE, WHICH CAUSED LITTLE DAMAGE AND NO CASUALTIES. A NORTH VIETNAMESE GROUND ATTACK IN THE EARLY HOURS MONDAY WAS REPULSED BY THE DEFENDERS. THE NORTH VIETNAMESE LEFT THIRTY OF THEIR KILLED ON THE BATTLEFIELD.
4. ONLY A FEW SCATTERED SKIRMISHES WERE REPORTED FROM SOUTHERN LAOS.

FROM: BARNES.

(BX)

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

USIS

270955 MAY '71

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PASS TO AC'S USAID

" PRIORITY "

(DTD 26 MAY 71)

1. THE MILITARY SITUATION IN LAOS REMAINS UNCHANGED WEDNESDAY. T
2. SPORADIC SMALL UNIT CLASHES AND A FEW ARTILLERY EXCHANGES WERE REPORTED BOTH FROM THE NORTHERN AND THE SOUTHERN REGIONS OF THE KINGDOM, BUT NO SIGNIFICANT MILITARY ACTION DEVELOPED IN ANY OF THE AREAS OF CURRENT OPERATIONS.

FROM: BARNES.

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112,00
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(BX)

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

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311500 MAY '71

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PASS TO AC'S USAID

" PRIORITY "
(DTD 29 MAY 71)

1. NORTH VIETNAMESE THROOPS RAIDED THE REFUGEE VILLAGE OF PHO CUM NORTH OF PLAIN OF JARS, KILLING SEVEN CIVILIANS AND WOUNDING FOUR MORE.
2. DURING THE PAST FIVE DAYS, THE NORTH VIETNAMESE HAVE KILLED AT LEAST THIRTY FIVE CIVILIANS IN THE SAME GENERAL AREA BY DIRECT ATTACKS OR BY INDISCRIMINATE ROCKET AND ARTILLERY FIRE ON VILLAGES. ANOTHER THIRTY CIVILIANS WERE WOUNDED IN THESE ATTACKS. UNITS,
3. GOVERNMENT ~~UNITS~~, OPERATING IN THE GENERAL AREA SOUTHWEST OF THE PLAIN OF JARS CAPTURED AFTER A CLASH FRIDAY A STORE OF NORTH VIETNAMESE AMMUNITION.
4. GOVERNMENT POSITIONS SOME FOURTEEN KILOMETERS WEST OF PAKSONG ON THE BOLOVENS PLATEAU IN SOUTHERN LAOS WERE FRIDAY UNDER A STRONG NORTH VIETNAMESE ASSAULT, BOTH BY ~~RETEL~~ MORTARFIRE AND BY GROUND ATTACKS. GOVERNMENT UNITS WERE FORCED TO WITHDRAW A SHORT DISTANCE AND TO SET UP NEW DEFENSIVE POSITIONS.
5. ONLY A FEW SCATTERED CLASHES WERE REPORTED FROM OTHER AREAS OF LAOS.

FROM: BARNES.

10 JUN 1971

971 01 JUN 1971

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

USIS

311525 MAY '71

USIS

PASS TO AC'S USAID

" PRIORITY "

(DTD 30 MAY 81)

1. THE OVERALL MILITARY SITUATION IN LAOS REMAINS UNCHANGED SUNDAY.
2. ONLY A FEW SCATTERED SKIRMISHES AND ARTILLERY EXCHANGES WERE REPORTED FROM VARIOUS REGIONS OF THE KINGDOM.

FROM:BARNES.

(BX)

USIS

PASS TO AC'S USAID

" PRIORITY "

(DTD 31 MAY 71)

1. THE PRIME MINISTER OF LAOS, PRINCE SOUVANNA PHOUMA, CALLED ON THE PL LEADER, PRINCE SOMPHANOUVONG, TO START IMMEDIATE AND SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS WITH A FLE-XIBLE AGENDA TO PERMIT BOTH PARTIES TO RAISE ANY ISSUE LIKELY TO SPEED UP THE PARLEYS
2. IN A LETTER DATED MAY TWENTYSIXTH AND PUBLISHED TODAY, MONDAY, PRIME MINISTER SOUVANNA ASSURED PRINCE SOUPHANOUVONG THAT HIS LATEST PROPOSALS REGARDING PEACE TALKS WERE CAREFULLY STUDIED BY THE LAO GOVERNMENT AND FOUND WANTING IN CONCRETE NESS THE PRIME MINISTER BLAMES THAT LACK, IN PART, ON THE FACT THAT THE PL SPECIAL ENVOY, SOUK VONGSAK, CAME TO VTE AS A MERE MESSENGER, WITHOUT ANY REAL NEGOTIATIONS POWERS. PRINCE SOUVANNA PHOUMA SUGGESTED IN HIS LETTER THAT SOUK VONGSAK ~~LAKH~~ EITHER THE EMPOWERED TO CONDUCT SUBSTANTIAL NEGOTIATIONS OR BE REPLACED BY SOMEONE ELSE WITH APPROPRIATE AUTHORITY.
3. THE LAO PRIME MINISTER STRESSED ALSO THAT THE PRE-CONDITIONS ADVANCED WITHOUT EXPLANATION BY THE PL LEADER SEEM TO BE QUITE POINTLESS AND ONLY INTENDED AS A MEANS OF GAINING TIME, WHILE IT IS REALLY URGENT TO ARRIVE AT A CEASE-FIRE, BOTH ON THE GROUND AND IN THE AIR.
4. IN CLOSING, PRIME MINISTER SOUVANNA PHOUMA EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THE PL LEADER WILL SERIOUSLY CONSIDER THE LAO GOVERNMENT PROPOSALS IF, AS HE MAINTAINS, HE REALLY WISHES TO PUT AN ~~END~~ END TO THE BLOODSHED IN LAOS,
EARLY

FROM: BARNES.

(BX)

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

USIS

021142 JUNE'71

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PASS TO AC'S USAID

" PRIORITY "

(DTD 01 JUNE 71)

1. NORTH VIETNAMESE FORCES TUESDAY CONTINUED THEIR PRESSURE AGAINST LAO GOVERNMENT POSITIONS IN THE AREA OF THE VILLAGE OF BOUAM LONG, NORTH OF THE PLAIN OF JARS.
2. GOVERNMENT TROOPS, WELL DUG-IN IN THEIR HILL TOP POSITIONS AROUND BOUAM LONG, ARE TAKING HEAVY TOLL OF THE NORTH VIETNAMESE WHO, FOR MORE THAN A WEEK NOW, KEEP PROBING THESE POSITIONS BY GROUND ATTACKS AS WELL AS BY ROCKET, MORTAR AND ARTILLERY FIRE. SO FAR, THE NORTH VIETNAMESE SUCCEEDED IN KILLING AND WOUNDING ABOUT NINETY CIVILIANS BY INDISCRIMINATE SHELLINGS OF NEIGHBORING VILLAGES.
3. IN SOUTHERN LAOS NORTH VIETNAMESE TROOPS CONTINUED THEIR ATTACKS AGAINST GOVERNMENT POSITIONS SOME FOURTEEN TO FIFTEEN KILOMETERSEAST OF PAKSONG ON THE BOLOVENS PLATEAU. AT ONE POINT OF THE BATTLE MONDAY, A GOVERNMENT UNIT WAS FORCED TO WITHDRAW ABOUT ONE KILOMETER TO THE WEST, WHERE IT SET UP NEW DEFENSIVE POSITIONS. GOVERNMENT ARTILLERY AND PLANES SUPPORT THE DEFENDERS.
4. ONLY A FEW SCATTERED CLASHES AND ARTILLERY EXCHANGES WERE REPORTED FROM OTHER REGIONS OF THE COUNTRY.

FROM: BARNES.

(BX)

BAN HO EI SAI

VIENTIANE

USIS

031445 JUNE '71

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PASS TO AC'S ~~SSAID~~

" PRIORITY "

(DTD 02 JUNE 71)

1. THE MILITARY SITUATION IN LAOS REMAINED VIRTUALLY STATIONERY WEDNESDAY.
2. GOVERNMENT POSITIONS AT BOUAM LONG, NORTH OF THE PLAIN OF JARS, CONTINUE TO BE SHELLED BY NORTH VIETNAMESE GUNNERS, BUT NO SIGNIFICANT ACTIONS WERE REPORTED FROM THE AREA.
3. INTERMITTENT ARTILLERY EXCHANGES WERE REPORTED IN SOUTHERN LAOS SOME FIFTEEN KILOMETERS WEST OF PAKSONG ON THE BOLOVENS PLATEAU.
4. ONLY A FEW SMALL UNIT SKIRMISHES OCCURRED ELSEWHERE IN THE KINGDOM.

FROM: NAUGHTON.

BAN HOU EI SAI

VIENTIANE

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071640 JUNE'71

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PASS TO AC'S USAD

" PRIORITY "

(DTD 04 JUNE 71)

1. THE MILITARY SIT-UATION IN LAOS FRIDAY REMAINED UNCHANGED.
2. NORTH VIETNAMESE ATTACKS BY ARTILLERY AND MORTAR FIRE, AS WELL AS BY GROUND PROBES, CONTINUED IN THE AREA OF BOU AM LONG, NORTH OF THE PLAIN OF JARS. THE WELL ENTRENCH-ED GOVERNMENT FORCES ARE REPORTED TO BE HOLDING OUT WELL AND INFLECTING ~~XX~~ SERIOUS LOSSES ON THE ATTACKERS.
3. ONLY A FEW SCATTERED SKIRMISHES AND ARTILLERY EXC-HANGES WERE REPORTED FROM OTHER REGIONS OF LAOS.

FROM: NAUGHTON.

(BX)

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

USIS

071645 JUNE'71

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PASS TO AC'S UNPAID.

" PRIORITY "

(DTD 05 JUNE 71)

1. THE MILITARY SITUATION IN LAOS REMAINED UNCHANGED SATURDAY. ONLY A FEW MINOR CLASHES AND ARTILLERY EXCHANGES WERE REPORTED FROM VARIOUS REGIONS OF THE COUNTRY.

2

FROM NAUGHTON.

(BX)

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

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111445 JUNE'71

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PASS TO AC'S USAID.

" PRIORITY "

(DTD 09 JUNE 71)

1. VERY LITTLE MILITARY ACTIVITY WAS REPORTED IN LAOS WEDNESDAY
2. SEASONAL MONSOON RAINS, WHICH STARTED OVER MUCH OF LAOS SOME TEN ~~DOZ~~ BAYS
ARE
AGO/ SAID TO BE ONE REASON FOR THE RULE MILITARY OPERATION.

FROM: NAUGHTON.

(BX)

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

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111450 JUNE'71

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PASS TO AC'S USAIB.

" PRIORITY "

(DTD 10 JUNE 71)

THE MILITARY SITUATION IN LAOS~~LAOS~~ REMAINS VIRTUALLY UNCHANGED THERSDAY
~~NIGHT~~ WITH ONLY A FEW MINOR SKIRMISHES REPORTED FROM VARIOUS REGIONS OF
THE ~~GENEAL~~.COUNTRY.

FROM: NAUGHTON.

(BX)

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

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122447 JUNE 71

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PASS TO AC'S USAID

* PRIORITY *

(DTD 11 JUNE 71)

1. NORTH VIETNAMESE FORCES THURSDAY NIGHT AND FRIDAY RENEWED THEIR ATTACKS AGAINST LAO GOVERNMENT UNITS IN THE WESTERN BOLOVENS PLATEAU AREA IN SOUTHERN LAOS.
2. AFTER SEVERAL DAYS OF RELATIVELY LOW MILITARY ACTIVITY, NORTH VIETNAMESE TROOPS, SUPPORTED BY AT LEAST FOUR SVIET BUILT TANKS, THURSDAY NIGHT LAUNCHED A STRONG ATTACK AGAINST GOVERNMENT POSITIONS SOME SIXTEEN KILOMETERS WEST OF PAKSONG, THE INITIAL NORTH VIETNAMESE THRUST, ALONG ROUTE TWENTY THREE BETWEEN PAKSONG AND PAKSE, CUT THROUGH GOVERNMENT TROOPS AND FORCED THEM TO SPLIT TO BOTH SIDES OF THE HIGHWAY, ONE OF THE NORTH VIETNAMESE TANKS WAS REPORTED DESTROYED BY GOVERNMENT GUNNERS. REINFORCEMENTS WERE SENT FROM PAKSE AND HEAVY FIGHTING IN THE AREA CONTINUED DURING THE DAY, FRIDAY.
3. IN OTHER DEVELOPMENTS NORTH VIETNAMESE GUNNERS CONTINUED INTERMITTENT SHILLING OF GOVERNMENT POSITIONS AT BOUAM LONG, NORTH OF THE PLAIN OF JARS.
4. ACCORDING TO REPORTS REACHING VTE NORTH VIETNAMESE TROOPS DESTROYED A REFUGEE VILLAGE JUST NORTH OF BOUAM LONG, AND ABDUCTED NEARLY THE ENTIRE CIVILIAN POPULATION OF SOME TWO THOUSAND PEOPLE.
5. NO SIGNIFICANT MILITARY ACTIVITY WAS REPORTED FROM OTHER REGIONS OF LAOS.

FROM: NAUGHTON.

(BX)

BAN HOUET SA

VIENTIANE

USIS

141155 JUNE'71

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PASS TO AC'S USAID

" PRIORITY "

(DTD 12 JUNE' 71)

1. FIGHTING CONTINUED FRIDAY AND SATURDAY ON THE WESTERN EDGE OF THE BOLOVENS PLATEAU IN SOUTHERN LAOS FOLLOWING STRONG NORTH VIETNAMESE ATTACKS AGAINST GOVERNMENT POSITIONS THURSDAY NIGHT AND FRIDAY.
2. THURSDAY NIGHT'S NORTH VIETNAMESE ATTACK, SPEARHEADED BY AT LEAST FOUR TANKS, SLICED THROUGH GOVERNMENT POSITIONS ALONG ROUTE TWENTY-THREE SPLITTING THEM INTO GROUPS SOUTH AND NORTH OF THE HIGHWAY. DURING THE DAY, FRIDAY, THE NORTH VIETNAMESE CONTINUED ATTACKING GOVERNMENT UNITS IN THE AREA AND SUCCEEDED IN OVERRUNNING SOME DEFENSE POSITIONS ONLY TWENTYFOUR KILOMETERS FROM PAKSE.
3. GOVERNMENT REINFORCEMENTS WERE RUSHED TO THE AREA FRIDAY.
4. IN NORTHERN LAOS, NORTH VIETNAMESE GUNNERS FRIDAY CONTINUED SHELLING GOVERNMENT OUTPOSTS AT BOUAM LONG, NORTH OF THE PLAIN OF JARS.
5. NO SIGNIFICANT MILITARY ACTION WAS REPORTED FROM OTHER REGIONS OF LAOS.

FROM NAUGHTON.

(BX)

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

USIS

151033 JUNE 71

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PASS TO AG'S USAID

PRIORITY

(DTD 14 JUNE 71)

1. NORTH VIETNAMESE TROOPS CONTINUE TO EXERT PRESSURE ON LAO GOVERNMENT POSITIONS AROUND BOUAM LONG NORTH OF THE PLAIN OF JARS IN NORTH CENTRAL LAOS, AND ON THE WESTERN EDGE OF THE BOLOVENS PLATEAU IN THE SOUTH.
2. EARLY SUNDAY MORNING ONE GOVERNMENT OUTPOST~~TEX~~ NEAR BOUAM LONG WAS LOST TO THE NORTH VIETNAMESE, BUT WAS RETAKEN BY GOVERNMENT UNITS LATER IN THE DAY.
3. IN SOUTHERN LAOS, GOVERNMENT FORCES WHICH WERE SPLIT AND PUSHED BACK BY A SUDDEN NORTH VIETNAMESE ATTACK THURSDAY NIGHT AND FRIDAY, ARE IN PROCESS OF REGROUPING AND FORMING A NEW LINE OF DEFENSE A FEW KILOMETERS WEST OF THEIR FORMER POSITIONS. ACCORDING TO REPORTS REACHING VIENTIANE, LAO AIR FORCE PLANES, FLYING CLOSE SUPPORT MISSIONS FOR THE EMBATTLED GOVERNMENT TROOPS, INFLECTED HEAVY LOSSES ON THE NORTH VIETNAMESE AND SLOWED DOWN THEIR ATTACK. AT LEAST THREE OF THE FOUR NORTH VIETNAMESE TANKS USED IN THE INITIAL THRUST WERE DESTROYED.
4. THE REST OF THE COUNTRY WAS REPORTED RELATIVELY QUIET.

FROM: NAUGHTON.

(BX)

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

USIS

161005 JUNE '71

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PASS TO AG'S USAID

" PRIORITY "
(DTD 15 JUNE 71)

1. NORTH VIETNAMESE TROOPS MONDAY NIGHT AND THESDAY RENEWED THEIR ATTACKS AGAINST GOVERNMENT POSITIONS ON THE WESTERN EDGE OF THE BOLOVENS PLATEAU IN SOUTHERN LAOS.
2. ACCORDING TO REPORTS REACHING VIENTIANE, THE NORTH VIETNAMESE MONDAY NIGHT LAUNCHED A STRONG NEW ATTACK ON GOVERNMENT TROOPS DEPLOYED ALONG ROUTE TWENTY-THREE SOME~~WHERE~~ TWENTY FIVE KILOMETERS EAST OF PAKSE. THE NORTH VIETNAMESE ATTACK WAS REPORTED-
LY SUPPORTED BY A TANK. HEAVY FIGHTING CONTINUED THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT INTO DAYTIME HOURS TUESDAY.
3. THE NORTH VIETNAMESE ALSO CONTINUED THEIR PRESSURE AGAINST LAO GOVERNMENT DEFENSE POSITIONS AROUND BOUAM LONG, NORTH OF THE PLAIN OF JARS IN NORTH CENTRAL LAOS. ARTI-
LLERY EXCHANGES AND LIGHT GROUND PROBES WERE REPORTED FROM THE AREA.
4. NO SIGNIFICANT MILITARY ACTIVITY WAS REPORTED FROM OTHER REGIONS OF LAOS.

FROM: NAUGHTON.

(BX)

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

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171153 JUNE'71

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PASS TO AC'S USAID

" PRIORITY "

(DTD 16 JUNE 71)

1. NORTH VIETNAMESE GUNNERS WEDNESDAY CONTINUED TO SHELL GOVERNMENT POSITIONS AT BOUAM LONG, NORTH OF THE PLAINS OF JARS IN NORTH CENTRAL LAOS.
2. ACCORDING TO REPORTS REACHING VIENTIANE, THE NORTH VIETNAMESE BOMBARDMENTS OF BOUAM LONG INCREASED MARKEDLY IN THE LAST TWO DAYS. IT IS ESTIMATED THAT ABOUT EIGHT HUNDRED DIRECTED ROUNDS OF ARTILLERY MORTAR AND ROCKET FIRE WERE ~~RECEIVED~~ AT BOUAM LONG IN THE LAST DAY AND A HALF. GOVERNMENT ARTILLERY FIRED BACK AT SUSPECTED NORTH VIETNAMESE GUNN GUN EMPLACEMENTS.
3. IN SOUTHERN LAOS, SPORADIC FIGHTING WAS REPORTED FROM THE WESTERN EDGE OF THE BOLOVENS PLATEAU, WHERE MONDAY NIGHT AND TUESDAY MORNING GOVERNMENT FORCES REPULSED A STRONG NORTH VIETNAMESE GROUND ATTACK, SPEARHEADED BY A TANK.
4. THE REST OF LAOS REMAINED RELATIVELY QUIET WITH ONLY A FEW SCATTERED SKIRMISHES REPORTED.

FROM: NAUGHTON.

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

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181000 JUNE'71

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PASS TO AC'S HSAID

" PRIORITY "

(DTD 17 JUNE 71)

1. NORTH VIETNAMESE GUNNERS THURSDAY MAINTAINED ROCKET, ~~ARTILLERY~~MORTAR, AND ARTILLERY FIRE AGAINST LAO GOVERNMENT POSITIONS AT BOUAM LONG, NORTH OF THE PLAIN OF JARS IN NORTH CENTRAL LAOS. GOVERNMENT ARTILLERY FIRED BACK AT NORTH VIETNAMESE GUN POSITIONS.
2. THE SITUATION S IN SOUTHERN LAOS REMAINS TENSE, ALTHOUGH NO SIGNIFICANT MILITARY ACTIVITY WAS REPORTED FROM:THE AREA OF THE WESTERN BOLOVENS PLATEAU. ACCORDING TO REPORTS REACHING VTE, THE NORTH VIETNAMESE SEEM TO BE BRINGING REINFORCEMENTS INTO THE AREA. WERE
3. ONLY MINOR SKIRMISHES AND ARTELLRY EXCHANGES/~~OR~~ REPORTED OTHER REGIONS OF LAOS.

FROM: NAUGHTON.

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

USIS

211427 JUNE'71

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PASS TO AC'S USAID.

" PRIORITY "

(DTD 18 JUNE 71)

1. THE OVERALL MILITARY SITUATION IN LAOS FRIDAY REMAINS BASICALLY UNCHANGED.
2. ON THE NIGHT OF JUNE 16/17 NORTH VIETNAMESE TROOPS MOUNTED TWO GROUND ATTACKS AGAINST GOVERNMENT POSITIONS AT BOUAM LONG, NORTH OF THE PLAIN OF JARS IN NORTH CENTRAL LAOS. EACH ATTACK WAS PRECEDED BY AN ARTILLERY BARRAGE. BOTH ATTACKS WERE REPOSED BY THE DEFENDERS, AND THE NORTH VIETNAMESE LOST AT LEAST FIFTY OF THEIR TROOPS KILLED.
3. NO SIGNIFICANT MILITARY ACTIVITY WAS REPORTED FROM OTHER REGIONS OF LAOS.

FROM: NAUGHTON .

(BX)

BAN HOUET SAI

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211432 JUNE '71

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PASS TO AC'S USAID.

" PRIORITY "

(DTD 2 JUNE 71)

1. THE MILITARY SITUATION IN LAOS SATURDAY REMAINS UNCHANGED.
2. GOVERNMENT TROOPS DEFENDING THE BOUAM LONG AREA, NORTH OF THE PLAIN OF JARS IN NORTH CENTRAL LAOS, REPORTED SEVERAL ~~MOXIX~~ MORTAR AND ARTILLERY EXCHANGES WITH THE ENCROACHING NORTH VIETNAMESE FORCES.
3. ONLY A FEW SCATTERED CLASHES WERE REPORTED FROM OTHER REGIONS OF LAOS.

FROM: NAUGHTON.

(BX)

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

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221433 JUNE 71

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PASS TO AC'S USAID

" PRIORITY "

(DTD 21 JUNE 71)

1. ON LY A FEW SCATTERED CLASHES AND SPORADIC ARTILLERY AND MORTAR EXCHANGES WERE REPORTED MONDAY FROM VARIOUS PARTS OF LAOS. THE OVERALL MILITARY SITUATION REMAINS UNCHANGED.

2.

FROM: NAUGHTON.

(BX)

BAN HOUET SAI

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231125 JUNE '71

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" PRIORITY "

(DTD 22 JUNE 71)

1. NORTH VIETNAMESE GUNNERS CONTINUE SHILLING GOVERNMENT DEFENSE POSITION AT BOUAM LONG, NORTH OF THE PLAIN OF JARS IN NORTH CENTRAL LAOS.
2. ACCORDING REPORTS REACHING VTE THUESDAY, AT LEAST 2000 ROUNDS OF MORTAR, ARTILLERY, AND ROCKET FIRE WERE DIRECTED AT THE BOUAM LONG POSITIONS DURING THE PRECEDING NIGHT. GOVERNMENT ARTILLERY FIRED BACK AT ~~ME~~ THE SUSPECTED NORTH VIETNAMESE GUN EMPLACEMENTS
3. SCATTERED PATROL CLASHES WERE REPORTED FROM AN AREA SOME SEVENTY FIVE KILOMETERS NORTHEAST OF THE ROYAL CAPITAL OF LP.
4. OTHER REGIONS OF LAOS WERE RELATIVELY CALM. LAO MINISTARY ORTIRITIES INDICATE THAT HEAVY MONSOON RAINS IN MOST AREAS OF LAOS MAKE OPERATION DIFFICULT FOR BOTH SIDE.

NAUGHTON.

(BX)

BAN HOUET SAI

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PASS TO AC'S USAID

" PRIORITY "

(DTD ²³ ~~24~~ JUNE 71)

1. THERE IS NO CHANGE IN THE OVER ALL MINITARY SITUATION IN LAOS.
2. ONLY A FEW SCATTERED SMALL UNIT CLASHES WERE REPORTED WEDNESDAY ~~FROM~~ FROM VARIOUS REGION OF THE KINGDOM.

FROM: NAUGHTON.

(BX)

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

USIS

251430 JUNE '71

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PASS TO AC'S USAID.

" PRIORITY "

(DTD 24 JUNE 71)

1. EIGHT MORE CIVILIANS WERE KILLED WEDNESDAY BY INDISCRIMINATE NORTH VIETNAMESE ~~TM~~ SHELLINGS OF LAO VILLAGES IN NORTH CENTRAL LAOS.
2. OVER ONE HUNDRED TWENTY CIVILIANS HAVE BEEN KILLED OR WOUNDED BY NORTH VIETNAMESE GUNFIRE AND SAPPER ATTACKS IN THE AREA OF BOUAM LONG, NORTH OF THE PLAIN OF JARS, IN THE PAST SIX WEEKS THAT IS, SINCE THE NORTH VIETNAMESE LAID SIEGE TO LAO GOVERNMENT ~~I~~ DEFENSE POSITIONS IN THE AREA. ON SOME OCCASIONS, NORTH VIETNAMESE COMMANDO ~~E~~ UNITS ATTACKED VILLAGES, FIRING WEAPONS INTO HUTS AND THROWING SATCHEL CHARGES INTO DUG-OUTS WHERE THE VILLAGERS SOUGHT SHELTER FROM NORTH VIETNAMESE ~~AR~~ ARTILLERY AND ROCKET FIRE. IN ONE INCIDENT, THE NORTH VIETNAMESE BURNED TO THE GROUND AN ENTIRE VILLAGES OF SOME SEVENTY HOUSES AND ABDUCTED ~~ONE~~ MOST OF THE POPULATION.
3. ONLY LIGHT MILITARY ACTIVITY WAS REPORTED FROM OTHER REGIONS OF LAOS. A FEW SCATTERED SMALL UNIT CLASHES TOOK PLACE NORTHEAST OF THE ROYAL CAPITAL OF LUANG PRABANG. IN THE SOUTH LAO GOVERNMENT ARTILLERY IS REPORTED FIRING AT NORTH VIETNAMESE GROUP CONCENTRATIONS ~~EAST~~ OF PAKSE ALONG THE ROAD TO PAKSONG ON THE BOULOVS PLATEAU.

FROM: LASKOWSKI

(BX)

DAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

USIS

281703 JUNE'71

USIS

PASS TO AC'S USAID

" PRIORITY "

(DTD 26 JUNE 71)

1. THE OVERALL MILITARY SITUATION IN LAOS SATURDAY REMAINS UNCHANGED.
2. NORTH VIETNAMESE GUNNERS CONTINUE HEAVY SHELLINGS OF LAO GOVERNMENT POSITIONS IN THE AREA OF BOUAM LONG, NORTH OF THE PLAIN OF JARS IN NORTH CENTRAL LAOS. TWO NORTH VIETNAMESE GROUND PROBES IN THE AREA WERE THROWN BACK BY THE DEFENDERS.
3. A NUMBER OF SMALL UNIT SKIRMISHES WERE REPORTED FROM OTHER REGIONS OF LAOS.

FROM: NAUGHTON.

(BX)

BAN HOU LI SAI

VIENTIANE

USIS

291515 JUNE '71

USIS

PASS TO AC'S UNPAID.

" PRIORITY "

(DTD 28 JUNE 71)

1. NORTH VIETNAMESE GUNNERS CONTINUE SHELLING LAO GOVERNMENT POSITIONS AT BOUAM LONG, NORTH OF THE PLAIN OF JARS IN NORTH CENTRAL LAOS, BUT THERE IS NO CHANGE IN THE OVERALL MILITARY SITUATION MONDAY IN LAOS.
 2. SEVERALL SKIRMISHES WERE REPORTED FROM THE AREA SOUTHWEST OF THE PLAIN OF JARS.
 3. LIGHT CONTACTS WERE ALSO REPORTED IN SOUTHERN LAOS ALONG ROUTE TWENTY-THREE BETWEEN/ HEAVY MONSOON RAINS KEEP MILITARY OPERATIONS AT A LOW LEVEL.
- PAKSE AND PAKSONG.

NAUGHTON.

(BX)

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

USIS

1
021550 JULY '71

USIS

PASS TO AC'S USAID

" PRIORITY "

(DTD 01 JULY 71)

1. GOVERNMENT PATROLS IN THE AREA OF BOUAM LONG, NORTH OF THE PLAIN OF JARS IN NORTH CENTRAL LAOS, REPORTED WEDNESDAY THAT THE NORTH VIETNAMESE HAVE STARTED TO WITHDRAW MOST ~~THEIR~~ OF THEIR MORTARS FROM THE IMMEDIATE VICINITY OF BOUAM LONG GOVERNMENT DEFENSE POSITIONS AT BOUAM LONG WERE UNDER NORTH VIETNAMESE SIEGE FOR ABOUT SIX WEEKS WITH DAILY SHELLINGS, MOSTLY BY MORTARS, BUT ALSO BY ROCKETS AND ARTILLERY.

2. ACCORDING TO REPORTS REACHING VIENTIANE, GOVERNMENT TROOPS WHICH TUESDAY EVACUATED DEFENSE POSITIONS NEAR THE VILLAGE OF PHOU VIENG, SOME EIGHTEEN KILOMETERS NORTHWEST OF BOUAM LONG, WERE FOLLOWED BY OVER TWO THOUSAND CIVILIANS FROM THE VILLAGE. PHOU VIENG HAS BEEN FOR SEVERAL WEEKS UNDER INTENSE NORTH VIETNAMESE BOMBARDMENT WHICH KILLED MANY VILLAGERS.

3. ONLY A FEW SCATTERED SKIRMISHES WERE REPORTED FROM THE SOUTHERN PART OF LAOS. ONE CLASH TOOK PLACE IN THE VICINITY OF MUONG PHALANE, SOME NINETY KILOMETERS EAST OF SAVANNAKHET ALONG ROUTE NINE. MUONG PHALANE FELL TO THE NORTH VIETNAMESE LAST MARCH. IN MAY NORTH VIETNAMESE TROOPS USED ROCKET FIRE TO DESTROY THE TOWN OF DONG HENE, SOME THIRTY-FIVE KILOMETERS WEST OF MUONG PHALANE, AND IN LATE MARCH AND EARLY JUNE MOVED TO WITHIN FORTY KILOMETERS OF SAVANNAKHET. DONG HENE WAS REOCCUPIED BY GOVERNMENT TROOPS IN MID-JUNE.

FROM NAUHEN.

(BX)

BAN HCUEI SAI

VIENTIANE

USIS

051345 JULY'71

USIS

PASS TO AD'S USAID

" PRIORITY "

(DTD 03 JULY 71)

1. MILITARY ACTIVITIES IN LOAS FRIDAY AND STURDAY CONTINUED LEVEL. ONLY
A FEW LIGHT SKIRMISHES WERE REPORTED FROM NORTH CENTRAL LAOS AND NEW
NEW THE WESTERN EDGE OF THE BOLOVENS PLATEAU IN THE SOUTH.

FROM: NAUGHTON.

(BX)

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

USIS

051645 JULY '71

USIS

PASS TO AC'S USAID

" PRIORITY "

(DTD 02 JULY 71)

1. THERE WAS VERY LITTLE MILITARY ACTIVITY IN LAOS THURSDAY AND FRIDAY. ONLY A FEW SCATTERED SKIRMISHES WERE REPORTED FROM VARIOUS PARTS OF THE COUNTRY. GOVERNMENT POSITIONS AT BOUAM LONG, NORTH OF THE PLAIN OF JARS IN NORTH CENTRAL LAOS, HAD ITS FIRST QUIET DAY IN MORE THAN SIX WEEKS. NOT A SINGLE NORTH VIETNAMESE SHELL FELL ON BOUAM LONG IN THE TWENTY-FOUR HOURS ENDING FRIDAY AT NOON.

FROM: NAUGHTON.

(BX)

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

USIS

061300 JULY'71

USIS

PASS TO AC'S USAID

" PRIORITY "

(DTD 05 JULY'71)

1. MILITARY ACTIVITIES IN LAOS DURING THE WEEKEND CONTINUED AT A VERY LOW LEVEL.
ONLY A FEW MINOR ENGAGEMENTS WERE REPORTED FROM VARIOUS PARTS OF THE ~~REMLX~~
COUNTRY.

FROM: NAUGHTON.

(BX)

USIS

PASS TO AC'S USAID

" PRIORITY "

(DTD 08 JULY'71)

IN

1. LAO GOVERNMENT PATROLS/~~THE~~ THE LAST FEW DAYS MOVED ON TO THE SOUTHERN APPROACHES OF THE PLAIN OF JARS IN NORTH CENTRAL LAOS WITHOUT ENCOUNTERING ANY SIGNIFICANT OPPOSITION FROM NORTH ~~VIETNAMESE~~ VIETNAMESE FORCES. GOVERNMENT TROOPS UNCOVERED A NUMBER OF NORTH VIETNAMESE CACHES CONTAINING MOSTLY FOODSTUFFS, BUT NOT MUCH ARMS OR AMMUNITION.

2. IN SOUTH CENTRAL LAOS, GOVERNMENT TROOPS CLASHED WITH NORTH VIETNAMESE UNITS IN AND AROUND THE TOWN OF MUONG PHALANE, SOME NINETY-FIVE KILOMETERS EAST OF SAVANNAKHET ALONG ROUTE NINE.

3. IN SOUTHERN LAOS, GOVERNMENT TROOPS MOVING ALONG ROUTE TWENTY-THREE WEDNESDAY ENCOUNTERED STIFF NORTH VIETNAMESE RESISTANCE SOME THIRTY KILOMETERS EAST OF PAKSE. THE ENGAGEMENT, WHICH LASTED FOR ~~ABOUT~~ ABOUT AN HOUR ~~THE~~ AND A HALF, DEVELOPED INTO ~~THE~~ A DUEL BETWEEN GOVERNMENT ARTILLERY AND NORTH VIETNAMESE MORTARS.

FROM: NAUGHTON.

(BX)

BAN HOUET SAI

BAN HOUET SAI

USIS

091640 JULY '71

USIS

PASS TO AC'S USAID

" PRIORITY "

(DTD 08 JULY 71)

1. THE ROYAL LAO GOVERNMENT HAS PROPOSED AN IMMEDIATELY CEASE-FIRE WITHIN ~~WITHIN~~ A THIRTY KILOMETERS ~~KAN~~ RAD IUS OF THE PLAIN OF JARS AIRPORT IN ORDER TO GET PEACE TALKS WITH THE PATHET LAO STARTED WITHOUT FURTHER DELAY.
2. IN A MESSAGE TO PATHET LAO READER PRINCE SOUPHANOUVONG, SENT JULY FIFTH AND PUBLISHED JULY EIGHTH , ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ THE PRIME MINISTER OF LAOS, PRINCE SOUVANNAPHOUMA, STATED THAT THE OBJECT OF THE PROPOSED CEASE-FIRE AROUND THE PLAIN OF JARS IS TO COMMENCE THE PARLEYS ON THE PLAIN AND IN VIENTIANE, AS SUGGESTED BY PRINCE SOUPHANOUVONG IN HIS LETTER OF JUNE TWENTY-SECOND. ACCORDING TO THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSAL, THESE CONVERSATIONS ARE TO LEAD TO A COMPLETE CEASE-FIRE OVER THE ENTIRE TERRITORY OF LAOS, AND TO DISCUSSIONS OF ALL OTHER OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS OF LAOS.
3. IN AN UNRELATED DEVELOPMENT, GENERAL BOUNPONE MARTHEPHA-RAKS THURSDAY ASSUMED THE DUTIES OF COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE ROYAL LAO ARMED FORCES. GENERAL BOUNPONE SUCCEEDED GENERAL OUAN RATHIKOUN RATHIKOUN, WHO~~X~~ RETIRED. BEFORE ASSUMING HIS NEW DUTIES, GENERAL BOUNPONE SERVED AS COMMANDER OF THE THIRD MILITARY REGION, WITH HEADQUARTERS IN SAVANNAKHET.

FROM: NAUGHTON.

(BX)

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

USIS

101515 JULY '71

USIS

PASS TO AC'S USAID

" PRIORITY "

(DTD 09 JULY 71)

1. LAO GOVERNMENT TROOPS FRIDAY CONTINUED PATROLLING THE SOUTHWESTERN PART OF THE PLAIN OF JARS IN NORTH CENTRAL LAOS WITHOUT ENCOUNTERING ANY SIGNIFICANT NORTH VIETNAMESE OPPOSITION. GOVERNMENT PATROLS DID, HOWEVER UNCOVER SIZE ABLE NORTH ~~VIET~~ VIETNAMESE CACHES, COMPOSED PRIMARILY OF FOODSTUFFS, WITH ONLY SMALL AMOUNTS OF ARMS AND AMMUNITION.
2. LAO MILITARY SOURCES INDICATE THAT NORTH VIETNAMESE TROOPS APPARENTLY WERE WITHDRAWN FROM THE AREA FOR THE CURRENT RAINY SEASON. THIS HAS HAPPENED IN PREVIOUS YEARS, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF 1970 SEASON OF 1970 WHEN IMPORTANT NORTH VIETNAMESE FORCES REMAINED SOUTHWEST OF THE PLAIN OF JARS,
3. ONLY A FEW SCATTERED SMALL UNIT CLASHES WERE REPORTED FROM OTHER PART OF LAOS.

FROM: NAUGHTON.

(BX)

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

USIS

121125 JULY'71

USIS

PASS TO AC'S USAID

" **PRIORITY** "

(DTD 10 JULY 71)

1. THE ROYAL LAO GOVERNMENT FRIDAY CATEGORICALLY DENIED CERTAIN PRESS ALLEGATIONS THAT THE CURRENT MILITARY OPERATIONS ON THE PLAIN OF JARS WERE INITIATED AND ARE CONDUCTED BY A FOREIGN EMBASSY, AS SUPPOSEDLY STATED BY A LAO MILITARY SPOKESMAN.
2. "THE ROYAL" LAO GOVERNMENT, " SAYS THE COMMUNIQUE, " DENIES IN THE MOST FORMAL FASHI- ON THIS ALLEGATION WHICH IS ABSOLUTELY GROUNDLESS AND INVENTED IN ITS ~~ENTIRE~~ ENTIRETY. THE PRESENT OPERATION ON THE PLAIN OF JARS HAS BEEN CONCEIVED, PLANNED AND IS BEING EXECU- TED BY THE ROYAL LAO ARMED FORCES. THE OPERATION IS CLOSELY FOLLOWED BY THE GENERAL STAFF WHICH KEEPS THE ROYAL LAO GOVERNMENT INFORMED OF EVEN THE MOST MINUTE DEVELOPMENTS."

FROM: NAUGHTON.

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

USIS

130748 JULY'71

USIS

PASS TO AC'S USAID.

(PRIORITY)

(DTD 11 ~~XX~~ JULY 71)

A LAO

1. ~~XX~~ GOVERNMENT PATHOL SATURDAY ENTERED A MEO REFUGEE VILLAGE NEAR PHOU BIA IN THE GENERAL VICINITY OF BOUAM LONG, NORTH OF THE PLAIN OF JARS, AND FOUND FIFTY-ONE CHARRED AND MUTILATED BODIES OF VILLAGERS, MANY OF THEM WOMEN AND CHILDREN. THE ~~UNDEFENDED~~ VILLAGE WAS RAIDED JUNE NINTH BY NORTH VIETNAMESE COMMANDOS WHO BURNED DOWN SOME SEVENTY HOUSES OF THE SETTLEMENT AND KILLED MANY CIVILIANS. THE EXTENT OF CIVILIANS LOSSES ~~WAS~~ ~~WAS~~ NOT KNOWN UNTIL THE GOVERNMENT PATROL ENTERED THE DESTROYED VILLAGE SATURDAY. PATHET LAO RADIO IN ITS JUNE SIXTEENTH BROADCAST CLAIMED THIS RAID AS A VICTORY FOR THEIR FORCES, SAYING THAT (SCORES OF ENEMY TROOPS WERE ANNIHILATED AND SEVENTY DWELLINGS DESTROYED).
2. THERE WERE NO GOVERNMENT TROOPS IN THE VILLAGE DURING THE ATTACK. THE NEAREST GOVERNMENT DEFENSE POSITION WAS ABOUT NINE KILOMETERS WEST AT PHOU VIENG. ON JUNE TWENTY NINTH, GOVERNMENT UNITS EVACUATED PHOU VIENG AFTER WITHSTANDING SEVERAL WEEKS OF HEAVY NORTH VIETNAMESE BOMBARDEMENT OVER TWO THOUSAND CIVILIAN REFUGEES LIVING IN PHOU VIENG MOVED OUT WITH THE TROOPS.
3. BOUAM LONG AREA HAS BEEN QUIET NOW FOR ABOUT TEN DAYS. THIS GOVERNMENT DEFENSE COMPLEX NORTH OF THE PLAIN OF JARS HAD BEEN UNDER HEAVY NORTH VIETNAMESE BOMBARDMENT SINCE MID MAY. AT LEAST TWO HUNDRED ~~EXX~~ CIVILIANS LIVING IN REFUGEE VILLAGES IN THE AREA ARE KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN KILLED BY INDISCRIMINATE NORTH VIETNAMESE FIRE AND COMMANDO RAIDS LIKE THE ONE AT PHOU BIA. UNCOUNTED OTHERS WERE WOUNDED, AND THE TOTAL NUMBER

130748 JULY'71

OF CIVILIAN VICTIMS OF THE NORTH VIETNAMESE TERRORIST ATTACK WILL PROBABLY NEVER BE KNOWN.

4. SOME THIRTY KILOMETERS SOUTH OF BOUAM LONG, GOVERNMENT TROOPS SUNDAY CONTINUED ~~RA~~ PATROLLING THE PLAIN OF JARS WITHOUT ENCOUNTERING ANY SIGNIFICANT NORTH VIETNAMESE~~NO~~ OPPOSITION. THE PATROLS CONTINUE UNCOVER LARGE QUANTITIES OF NORTH VIETNAMESE SUPPLIES, MOSTLY FOODSTUFFS. ACCORDING TO LAO MILITARY AUTHORITIES, THE NORTH VIETNAMESE WERE OBLIGED TO STASH LARGE AMOUNTS OF FOODSTUFFS FOR ~~THEIR~~ THEIR TROOPS IN THE AREA DUE TO THE ALMOST TOTAL ABSENCE OF FARMING POPULATION ON THE PLAIN OF JARS.

5. NO SIGNIFICANT MILITARY ACTIVITY WAS REPORTED FROM OTHER REPORT OF LAOS.

FROM: NAUGHTON.

(SD)

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

USIS

131240 JULY'71

USIS

PASS TO ACIS USAID

" PRIORITY "

(DTD 12 JULY 71)

1. LAO GOVERNMENT PATROLS MONDAY CONTINUED SWEEPS THROUGH THE PLAIN OF JARS IN NORTH CENTRAL LAOS WITHOUT ENCOUNTERING ANY SIGNIFICANT NORTH VIETNAMESE OPPOSITION.
2. SUNDAY THREE SOLDIERS OF THE PRO-COMMUNIST NEUTRALIST UNITS THE "DEUANISTS" RALLIED TO THE GOVERNMENT SIDE IN THE CENTRAL SECTOR OF THE PLAIN. THE THREE REPORTEDLY STATED THAT MANY OF THEIR COLLEAGUES ARE READY TO COME OVER THE GOVERNMENT SIDE.
3. IN SOUTH CENTRAL LAOS A FEW MINOR CLASHES WERE REPORTED IN THE IMMEDIATE VICINITY OF MOUNG PHALANE, SOME NINETY KILOMETERS EAST OF SVKT ALONG ROUTE NINE.
4. PATROL CONTACTS WERE ALSO REPORTED FROM SOUTHERN LAOS NEAR THE WESTERN EDG OF THE BOLOVENS PLATEAU.
5. THE OTHER REGIONS OF LAOS REMAINED RELATIVELY CALM.

FROM: NAUGHTON.

(BX)

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

USIS

161430 JULY'71

USIS

PASS TO AC'S UNPAID

" PRIORITY "

(DTD 14 JULY 71)

1. HEAVY MONSOON RAINS TUESDAY AUGMENTED BY THE INFLUENCE OF THE TROPICAL STORM " KIM KIM " KIM HAMPERED MILITARY OPERATIONS IN MOST OF LAOS.
2. ACCORDING TO REPORTS REACHING VTE GOVERNMENT TROOPS CONTINUED PATROLLING THE PLAIN OF JARS WITH ONLY A VERY SPORADIC AND LIGHT CONTACT WITH SMALL NORTH VIETNAMESE UNITS.
3. A COMMUNIST UNIT SUNDAY NIGHT STAGED AN ATTACK ON A HIGHWAY BRIDGE NEAR PAKSANE, SOME ONE HUNDRED KILOMETERS EAST OF VTE KIM. THE BRIDGE SUFFERED LIGHT DAMAGE THAT DID NOT AFFECT THE NORMAL FLOW OF TRAFFIC. THE ATTACKERS WERE REPULSED BY A GOVERNMENT SECURITY FORCE GUARDING THE BRIDGE.
4. THE REST OF THE COUNTRY REMAINED RELATIVELY QUIET.

FROM: NAUGHTON.

(BX)

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

USIS

161430 JULY'71

USIS

PASS TO AC'S UNPAID

" PRIORITY "

(DTD 14 JULY 71)

1. HEAVY MONSOON RAINS TUESDAY AUGMENTED BY THE INFLUENCE OF THE TROPICAL STORM " KIM KIM " KIM HAMPERED MILITARY OPERATIONS IN MOST OF LAOS.
2. ACCORDING TO REPORTS REACHING VTE GOVERNMENT TROOPS CONTINUED PATROLLING THE PLAIN OF JARS WITH ONLY A VERY SPORADIC AND LIGHT CONTACT WITH SMALL NORTH VIETNAMESE UNITS.
3. A COMMUNIST UNIT SUNDAY NIGHT STAGED AN ATTACK ON A HIGHWAY BRIDGE NEAR PAKSANE, SOME ONE HUNDRED KILOMETERS EAST OF VTE KIM. THE BRIDGE SUFFERED LIGHT DAMAGE THAT DID NOT AFFECT THE NORMAL FLOW OF TRAFFIC. THE ATTACKERS WERE REPULSED BY A GOVERNMENT SECURITY FORCE GUARDING THE BRIDGE.
4. THE REST OF THE COUNTRY REMAINED RELATIVELY QUIET.

FROM: NAUGHTON.

(BX)

BAN HOUET SAI

VIETNAM

USIS

241700 JULY '71

USIS

PASS TO AC'S USAID

" RICHIE - 1

(DTD 23 JULY 71)

1. THE MILITARY SITUATION IN LAOS FOR THE PAST TEN DAYS REMAINS VIRTUALLY UNCHANGED. ROYAL LAO GOVERNMENT UNITS MOVING OVER THE PLAIN OF JARS IN NORTH CENTRAL LAO ENCOUNTERED ONLY SPORADIC AND LIGHT RESISTANCE FROM THE COMMUNISTS.
2. THE GOVERNMENT TROOPS WERE REPORTED TO HAVE FOUND ABOUT ONE THOUSAND TONS OF THE VIETNAMESE NORTH/VIENT SUPPLIES STASHED ALONG IN CACHES THROUGHOUT THE AREA. ABOUT EIGHTY PERCENT OF THE CAPTURED SUPPLIES CONSISTED OF FOODSTUFFS, ARMS AND AMMUNITION ACCOUNTED FOR ONLY ABOUT TWENTY PERCENT.
3. A FEW SCATTERED SMALL UNIT CLASHES WERE REPORTED IN THE GENERAL AREA NORTHWEST OF THE ROYAL CAPITAL OF LP.
4. LIGHT CONTACTS ALSO CONTINUED BETWEEN GOVERNMENT TROOPS AND COMMUNIST UNITS IN SOUTH CENTRAL LAOS IN THE VICINITY OF DONK HENG, MUONG PHALANE, AND KENG KOK, EAST AND SOUTH-EAST OF SUKT.
5. THE WESTERN EDGE OF THE BOLOVENS PLATEAU IN SOUTHERN LAOS HAS REMAINED RELATIVELY QUIET FOR MORE THAN A WEEK.

FROM: NAUGHTON

(BX)

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

USIS

261540 JULY'71

USIS

PASS TO AC'S USAID

" PRIORITY "

(DTD 24 JULY'71)

1. LAO GOVERNMENT TROOPS PATROLLING THE AREA OF THE PLAIN OF JARS IN NORTH CENTRAL LAOS REPORTED A FEW SKIRMISHES FRIDAY WITH THE NORTH VIETNAMESE IN CENTRAL AND THE NORTHEAST ~~WENTH~~ PARTS OF ~~PKK~~ THE PLAIN GOVERNMENT REPORTED ALSO THAT NORTH VIETNAMESE GUNNER FRIDAY FIRED SEVERAL ROCKETS INTO THE GENERAL AREA OF THE XIENG KOUANG ~~AIR~~FIELD IN THE NORTH CENTRAL SECTOR OF THE PLAIN OF JARS. EARLIER, ~~KNEX~~ A NORTH VIETNAMESE SAPPER UNIT MADE AN ATTEMPT TO ATTACK THE AIRFIELD.
2. TWO SMALL UNIT CLASHES WERE REPORTED FRIDAY BY GOVERNMENT UNITS ON THE WESTERN RIM OF THE BOLOVENS PLATEAU IN SOUTHERN LAOS, LESS THAN THIRTY KILOMETERS EAST OF PAKSE.
3. THE REST OF THE COUNTRY REMAINED RELATIVELY QUIET. FROM: NAUGHTON.

(BX)

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

USIS

271200 JULY'71

USIS

PASS TO AC'S USAID

" PRIORITY "

(DTD 26 ULY'71)

1. THE ~~MILITARY~~ SITUATION IN LAOS SUNDAY AND MONDAY REMAINED UNCHANGED. ~~MM~~
2. NORTH VIETNAMESE GUNNERS FIRED A FEW ARTILLERY ROUNDS INTO GOVERNMENT POSITIONS IN THE NORTH CENTRAL SECTOR OF THE PLAIN OF JARS, BUT CAUSED NO DAMAGE AND NO CASUALTIES.
3. IN ANOTHER PART OF THE PLAIN, GOVERNMENT PATROLS DISCOVERED AND ABANDONED NORTH VIETNAMESE MILITARY CAP AND SEIZED SOME SUPPLIES AND DOCUMENTS.
4. ONLY ONE LIGHT CLASH WAS REPORTED FROM SOUTHERN LAOS, SOME TWENTY-EIGHT KILOMETERS EAST OF PAKSE.

FROM: NAUGHTON.

(BX)

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

USIS

281006 JULY '71

USIS

PASS TO AC'S ~~SSAID~~

" PRIORITY "

(DTD 27 JULY 71)

1. MILITARY ACTIVITY IN LAOS TUESDAY CONTINUED IN A VERY LOW KEY. GOVERNMENT TROOPS PATROLLING THE PLAIN OF JARS IN NORTH CENTRAL LAOS REPORTED SPORADIC HARASSMENTS BY NORTH VIETNAMESE MORTARS. THESE SHOOTINGS, HOWEVER, CAUSED NO ~~DAMAGE~~ DAMAGE AND NO CASUALTIES THE REST OF THE COUNTRY WAS REPORTED RELATIVELY QUIET.

FROM: NAUGHTON.

(BX)

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

USIS

291935 July. 71

USIS

PASS TO AC'S USAID

PRIORITY

(DTD 28 JULY 71)

1. LAO GOVERNMENT TROOPS PATROLLING THE AREA OF THE PLAIN OF JARS WEDNESDAY REPORTED A FEW SCATTERED UNIT CLASHES WITH THE NORTH VIETNAMESE, AND SPORADIC HARASSMENTS BY NORTH VIETNAMESE ROCKET AND MORTAR FIRE.
2. A CIVILIAN TRUCK CONVOY WAS AMBUSHED TUESDAY ON THE ROAD BETWEEN VIENTIANE AND THE ROYAL CAPITAL OF LUANG PRA BANG. ONE DRIVER WHO PULLED AHEAD OF THE MILITARY ESCORT WAS KILLED AND HIS VEHICLE DAMAGED. THE MILITARY ESCORT ENGAGED THE ATTACKED AND DROVE THEM OFF.
3. THE REST OF THE COUNTRY REMAINED RELATIVELY QUIET WITH ONE SMALL UNIT CLASH REPORTED SOME THIRTY KILOMETERS NORTHEAST OF LUANG PRA BANG IN THE NORTH AND ONE NEAR THE WESTERN RIM OF THE BOLOVENS PLATEAU IN THE SOUTH OF LAOS.

FROM: NAUGHTON.

(PM)

USIS

PASS TO AC'S USAID

" PRIORITY "

(DID 29 JULY 71)

RADIO

1. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ LAO NATIONAL ~~XXXXXX~~ ANNOUNCED THURSDAY THAT LAO GOVERNMENT TROOPS ~~XXXXXX~~ WEDNESDAY RECAPTURED THE TOWN OF SARAVANE, SOME THIRTY-FIVE KILOMETERS NORTH OF THE BOLOVENS PLATEAU IN SOUTHERN LAOS.
2. SARAVANE, A PROVINCIAL CAPITAL, WAS ATTACKED AND CAPTURED BY THE NORTH VIETNAMESE MORE THAN A YEAR AGO.
3. ACCORDING TO THE ANNOUNCEMENT CARRIED BY ~~THE~~ ~~LAOS~~ ~~NATIONAL~~ ~~RADIO~~ ~~THE~~ ~~LAOS~~ ~~NATIONAL~~ ~~RADIO~~, GOVERNMENT TROOPS ENTERED SARAVANE WEDNESDAY AT 78 30 IN THE MORNING. THE COMMUNIQUE STATED FURTHER THAT THE GOVERNMENT TROOPS ARE IN FIRM CONTROL OF THE TOWN AND THE SURROUNDING AREA
4. SARAVANE LIES AT AN IMPORTANT ROAD JUNCTION OF ROUTE TWENTY-THREE AND ROUTE SIXTEEN. SECTIONS OF THESE ROADS ARE BELIEVED TO FORM PART OF THE HO CHIMENG TRAIL RUNNING THROUGH EASTERN LAOS FROM NORTH VIETNAM TO CAMBODIA AND SOUTH VIETNAM.
5. ONLY A FEW SCATTERED CLASHES WERE REPORTED FROM OTHER REGIONS OF LAOS.

FROM: NAUGHTON.

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

USIS

311850 July. 71

USIS

PASS TO AC'S USAID

P R I O R I T Y

(DTD 30.71)

1. AFTER REOCCUPYING THE TOWN OF SARAVANE IN SOUTHERN LAOS WEDNESDAY LAO GOVERNMENT TROOPS FANNED OUT OF THE TOWN TO PATROL THE SURROUNDING AREA WITHOUT ENCOUNTERING ANY SIGNIFICANT RESISTANCE. ONLY ONE SMALL CLASH WITH A NORTH VIETNAMESE UNIT WAS REPORTED FROM AN AREA SOME TEN KILOMETERS SOUTHWEST OF SARAVANE. TWO NORTH VIETNAMESE SOLDIERS WERE KILLED AND ONE CAPTURED IN THIS CLASH, WHILE THE GOVERNMENT PACOL SUFFERED NO CASUALTIES.
2. SARAVANE WAS ~~RE~~ RETAKEN WEDNESDAY BY GOVERNMENT. TROOPS WITHOUT OPPOSITION THIS PROVINCIAL CAPITAL, LOCATED ABOUT THIRTY-FIVE KILOMETERS NORTH OF THE BOLOVENS PLATEAU, WAS ATTACKED AND CAPTURED BY THE NORTH VIETNAMESE ON JUNE 9, 1970. SARAVANE LIES AT THE CROSSROADS OF ROUTE SIXTEEN AND ROUTE TWENTY-THREE. SECTIONS OF BOTH THESE ROADS ARE BELIEVED TO FORM PART OF THE HO CHI MINH TRAIL SYSTEM.
3. A FEW SCATTERED CLASHES WERE REPORTED FROM THE AREA NEAR MUONG PHALANE, SOME NINETY KILOMETERS EAST OF SARAVANNAKHET IN SOUTH CENTRAL LAOS.
4. FARTHER NORTH, GOVERNMENT TROOPS OPERATING ON THE PLAIN OF JARS REPORTED SPORADIC HARASSMENT BY NORTH VIETNAMESE MORTAR FIRE. FROM: NAUGHTON. (PM)

BAN HOUAI SAI

VIENTIANE

US S

031433 AUGUST '71

USIS

PASS TO ACS ~~XXX~~ USAID

" PRIORITY "

(DTD 31 JULY 71)

1. LAO GOVERNMENT TROOPS, SUPPORTED BY ARTILLERY AND ROYAL LAO TIAN WAR PLANE, FRIDAY EVENING OVER-RAN STRONG NORTH VIETNAMESE POSITIONS ALONG THE ROAD BETWEEN PAKSE AND PAKSONG IN SOUTHERN LAOS. MORE THAN THIRTY NORTH VIETNAMESE SOLDIERS WERE KILLED IN THIS ACTION, WHILE GOVERNMENT FORCES SUFFERED ONLY VERY LIGHT CASUALTIES.

2. THE CAPTURED POSITIONS ARE AS TRIDE ROUTE TWENTY-THREE NEAR A SMALL ^{LOCALITY} ~~XXXX~~ ~~XX~~ ~~XX~~ NAMED BY NHIK, ABOUT TWENTY-EIGHT KILOMETERS EAST OF PAKSE. BY DRIVING THE NORTH VIETNAMESE FROM THEIR POSITIONS NEAR BAN NHIK, GOVERNMENT FORCES WON CONTROL OF AN IMPORTANT STRETCH OF THE ROAD TO PAKSONG ON THE BOLOVENS PLATEAU. THIS PARTICULAR SECTION OF ROUTE TWENTY-THREE FOR MS/^A SORT OF BOTTLENECK AS IT PASSES BETWEEN DEEP GOERGES ON EITHER SIDE.

3. TO THE NORTH OF THE BOLOVENS PLATEAU, GOVERNMENT UNITS CONTINUE PATROLLING THE AREA OF THE RECENTLY RECAPTURED PROVINCIAL OF SARAVANE. ONLY TWO SMALL PATROL CLASHES WERE REPORTED FROM THIS AREA, ONE ABOUT SIXTEEN KILOMETERS NORTH WEST OF SARAVANE AND ONE ABOUT TWO KILOMETERS EAST OF THE TOWN.

4. WITHIN THE LAST ^{TEN} ~~XXX~~ DAYS, TWO GROUPS OF PATHET LAO SOLDIERS HAVE RALLIED TO THE GOVERNMENT SIDE IN SOUTHERN LAOS. FRIDAY, THIRTEEN PATHET LAO SOLDIERS AND ONE HUNDRED FOURTEEN CIVILIANS FROM COMMUNIST CONTROLLED TERRITORY JOINED THE GOVERNMENT SIDE AT SOUVANNA KHLI, SOME THIRTY KILOMETERS NORTH OF PAKSE. THE SOLDIERS,

031133 AUGUST'71

ALL FROM THE TWELFTH PATHET LAO BATTALION, WERE LED BY THEIR COMMANDING OFFICER. A
ANOTHER GROUP, ALSO OF THIRTEEN PATHET LAO SOLDIERS, CAME OVER TO THE GOVERNMENT
SIDE IN PAKSE ON JULY TWENTY-FIRST. ALTOGETHER SOME THREE HUNDRED PATHET LAO
OFFICERS AND MEN HAVE RALLIED TO THE GOVERNMENT SIDE IN SOUTHERN LAOS IN RECENT
MONTHS.

5. IN SOUTH CENTRAL LAOS SEVERAL SMALL UNIT CLASHES WERE REPORTED IN THE VICINITY
OF MUONG PHALANE, SOME NINETY KILOMETER EAST OF SAVANNAKHET, ALONG ROUTE NINE.

6. THE AREA OF THE PLAIN OF JARS IN NORTH CENTRAL LAOS REMAINED RELATIVELY ~~QUIET~~
QUIET, WITH ONLY A FEW SCATTERED INCIDENTS OF HARASSING NORTH VIETNAMESE MORTAR
FIRE REPORTED BY GOVERNMENT UNITS PATROLLING THE PLAIN.

FROM: NAUGHTON.

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

USIS

031450 AUGUST '71

~~SEE~~ USIS

AC/BHS

" PRIORITY "

(DTD 01 AUGUST 71)

1. LAO TIMN PRIME MINISTER PRINCE SOUVANNA PHOUMA HAS CALLED ON THE PATHET LAO THE BEGIN IMMEDIATE DISCUSSION OF A CEASE-FIRE OVER THE ENTIRE TERRITORY OF LAOS.
2. IN A LETTER TO PATHET LAO LEADER PRINCE SOUPHANOUVONG, DATED JULY TWENTY-SECOND AND PUBLISHED JULY THIRTY-FIRST, THE PRIME MINISTER EXPRESSED SATISFACTION AT HAVING RECEIVED A PROMPT ANSWER FOR SOUPHANOUVONG TO HIS PREVIOUS MESSAGE. " I HOPE ", HE STATED, & THAT THIS INDICATES YOUR DESIRE FOR SETTLEMENT OF THE PROBLEM OF LAOS AMONG THE LAO-TIANS. THIS IS ALSO MY DEEP CONCERN AND THE MOTIVATION OF ALL MY PREVIOUS AND PRESENT EFFORTS.
3. THE PRIME MINISTER'S TWO POINT PROPOSAL PROVIDES FOR IMMEDIATE PARLEYS BETWEEN THE ~~PLENIPOTENTIARIES~~ PLENIPOTENTIARIES OF THE TWO SIDES, TO BE HELD ALTERNATIVELY IN VTE AND ON THE PLAIN OF JARS. THE SECURITY OF THE PLAIN OF JARS WOULD BE ASSURED BY A CEASE-FIRE WITHIN A RADIUS OF THIRTY KILOMETERS OR MORE FROM THE CENTRAL AIRFIELD ON THE PLAIN. THE CEASE-FIRE WOULD BE ENFORCED BY TROOPS FROM BOTH SIDES UNDER SUPERVISION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONTROL COMMISSION, THE PURPOSE OF THE DISCUSSIONS IS TO PREPARE A CEASE-FIRE COVERING THE ENTIRE TERRITORY OF LAOS.
4. POINT TWO OF THE PROPOSAL CALLS FOR OPENING OF CONVERSATIONS AIMING AT A SOLUTION OF ALL ^{OUTSTANDING} ~~OUTSTANDING~~ PROBLEMS OF LAOS.
5. PRINCE SOUVANNA PHOUMA POINTS OUT IN HIS LETTER THAT THE PATHET LAO LEADER IN HIS LAST MESSAGE

1. ACCURATELY RECALLED THAT IN 1961 A TOTAL CEASE-FIRE WAS ARRANGED IN LAOS PRIOR
" YOU
TO THE GENEVA CONFERENCE. "BUT", SAID THE PRIME MINISTER, ~~THEY~~ SEEM TO FORGET
THAT THE SITUATION IN 1961 WAS DIFFERENT FROM THE ONE WE FACE NOW. "THE PRIME MINIST-
ER POINTED OUT THAT, IN CONTRAST TO THE SITUATION OF TEN YEARS AGO MANY TOWNS AND
AREA OF LAOS ARE TODAY THREATENED OR OCCUPIED BY TROOPS ~~XX~~ " WHOSE STRENGTH ~~AND~~
NATIONALITY ARE WELL KNOWN"

6. PRINCE SOUVANNA PHOUMA NOTED THAT BOTH THE PATHET LAO AND ROYAL LAO GOVERNMENT
FREQUENTLY ACCUSE ~~THE~~ OTHER POWERS OF INTERFERING IN LAO AFFAIRS.

" THE ONLY ~~DIFFERENCE~~ DIFFERENCE HERE IS NAMING THE NAMES OF THE POWERS RESPONSIBLE"

7. THE LAO PRIMINISTER STRESSED THAT NO ONE CAN DOUBT THE FACT OF A ~~EXCLOSE~~
RELATION BETWEEN THE SITUATION IN LAOS AND THE CONFLICT IN VIETNAM. " ON THE
CONTRARY, THIS CLOSE RELATION BECAME ~~RECENTLY~~ MORE OBVIOUS THAN EVER ".

FROM: NAUGHTON.

(BX)

BAN MOUEI SAI

VIENTIANE

USIS

031850 AUG'71

USIS & AC'S

PRIORITY

USIS VTE USINFO DTD 1 AUGUST IS REPEATED BELOW FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

1. LAO GOVERNMENT FORCES, AFTER OVER-RUNNING STRONG ~~MM~~ NORTH VIET NAMESE POSITIONS FRIDAY ON ROUTE TWENTY-THREE NEAR BAN NHIK IN SOUTHERN LAOS, SATURDAY CONTINUED THEIR ADVANCE TOWARD PAKSONG ON THE BOLOVENS PLATEAU. THE NORTH VIETNAMESE ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE AT LEAST ONE MORE LINE OF DEFENSE BETWEEN BAN NHIK AND PAKSONG. BUT SO FAR ONLY A FEW LIGHT CLASHES HAVE BEEN REPORTED ALONG THE ~~MM~~ GOVERNMENT TROOPS LINE OF ADVANCE EAST OF BAN NHIK.
2. IN THE SARAVAN AREA, NORTH OF THE BOLOVENS PLATEAU, GOVERNMENT UNITS WERE REPORTED TO HAVE ENLARGED THEIR ZONE OF ACTIVE PATROLL IN SEVERAL DIRECTIONS FROM THE TOWN, ENCOUNTERING ONLY LIGHT AND SPORADIC NORTH VIETNAMESE RESISTANCE.
3. SCATTERED SMALL UNIT SKIRMISHES WERE REPORTED FROM THE VICINITY OF MUONG PHALANE IN SOUT CENTRAL LAOS, SOME NINETY KILOMETERS EAST OF SAVANNAKHET.
4. THE PLAIN OF JARS AREA REMAINS RELATIVELY QUIET. GOVERNMENT TROOPS ON THE PLAIN REPORT OCCASIONAL WIDELY SCATTERED NORTH VIET NAMESE MORTAR FIRE.

FROM: NAUGHTON.

SD

USIS & AC'S

PRIORITY

USIS VTE USINFO DTD 31 JULY IS REPEATED BELOW FOR YOUR INFORMATION

1. LAO GOVERNMENT TROOPS, SUPPORTED BY ARTILLERY AND ROYAL LAOTIAN WARPLANES, FRIDAY EVENING OVER-RAN STRONG NORTH VIETNAMESE POSITIONS ALONG THE ROAD BETWEEN PAKSE AND PAKSONG IN SOUTHERN LAOS. MORE THAN THIRTY NORTH VIETNAMESE SOLDIERS WERE KILLED IN THIS ACTION, WHILE GOVERNMENT FORCES SUFFERED ONLY VERY LIGHT CASUALTIES.
2. THE CAPTURED POSITIONS ARE ASTRIDE ROUTE TWENTY-THREE NEAR A SO ALL LOCALITY NAMED BAN NHIK, ABOUT TWENTY-EIGHT KILOMETERS EAST OF PAKSE. BY DRIVING THE NORTH VIETNAMESE FROM THEIR POSITIONS NEAR BAN NHIK, GOVERNMENT FORCES WON CONTROL OF AN IMPORTANT STRETCH OF THE ROAD TO PAKSONG ON THE BOLOVENS PLATEAU. THIS PARTICULAR SECTION OF ROUTE TWENTY-THREE FORMS A SORT OF BOTTLENECK AS IT PASSES BETWEEN DEEP GORGES ON EITHER SIDE.
3. TO THE NORTH OF THE BOLOVENS PLATEAU, GOVERNMENT UNITS CONTINUE PATROLLING THE AREA OF THE RECENTLY RECAPTURED PROVINCIAL CAPITAL OF SARAVANE. ONLY TWO SMALL PATROL CLASHES WERE REPORTED FROM THIS AREA, ONE ABOUT SIXTEEN KILOMETERS NORTH WEST OF SARAVANE AND ONE ABOUT TWO KILOMETERS EAST OF THE TOWN.
4. WITHIN THE LAST TEN DAYS, TWO GROUPS OF PATHET LAO SOLDIERS HAVE ~~RAILED~~ RALLIED TO THE GOVERNMENT SIDE IN SOUTHERN LAOS. FRIDAY, THIRTEEN PATHET LAO SOLDIERS AND ONE HUNDRED FOURTEEN CIVILIANS FROM COMMUNIST CONTROLLED TERRITORY JOINED THE GOVERNMENT SIDE AT SOUVANNA KHIL', SOME THIRTY KILOMETERS NORTH OF PAKSE. THE SOLDIERS, ALL FROM THE TWELFTH PATHET LAO BATTALION, WERE LED BY THEIR COMMANDING OFFICER. ANOTHER GROUP ALSO OF THIRTEEN PATHET LAO SOLDIERS, CAME OVER TO THE GOVERNMENT SIDE IN PAKSE ON JULY TWENTY-FIRST. ALTOGETHER SOME THREE HUNDRED PATHET LAO OFFICER, AND MEN HAVE RALLIED TO THE GOVERNMENT SIDE IN SOUTHERN LAOS IN RECENT MONTHS,
5. IN SOUTH CENTRAL LAOS SEVERAL SMALL UNITS CLASHES WERE REPORTED IN THE VICINITY OF MUONG PHALANE, SOME NINETY KILOMETERS EAST OF SAVANNAKHET, ALONG ROUTE NINE.
6. THE AREA OF THE PLAIN OF JARS IN NORTH CENTRAL LAOS REMAINED RELATIVELY QUIET, WITH ONLY A FEW SCATTERED INCIDENTS OF HARASSING NORTH VIETNAMESE MORTAR FIRE REPORTED BY GOVERNMENT UNITS PATROLLING THE PAIN.

FROM: NAUGHTON.

SD

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

USIS

041422 AUGUST '71

USIS

PASS TO AC'S USAID

" PRIORITY "

(DTD 03 AUGUST 71)

1. THE MILITARY SITUATION IN LAOS MONDAY AND TUESDAY REMAINED BASICALLY UNCHANGED.
2. GOVERNMENT TROOPS CONTINUE TO ADVANCE SLOWLY EASTWARD IN THE DIRECTION OF PAKSONG ~~ON~~ THE BOLOVENS PLATEAU. ANOTHER GOVERNMENT FORCE OPERATING NORTHEAST OF PAKSONG RAN INTO STIFF NORTH VIETNAMESE OPPOSITION SOME THIRTEEN KILOMETERS FROM PAKSONG.
3. GOVERNMENT UNITS OPERATING OUT OF SARAVANE, NORTH OF THE BOLOVENS PLATEAU, REPORTED A FEW SCATTERED CLASHES WITH NORTH VIETNAMESE PATROLS NINETEEN KILOMETERS NORTHWEST AND FOURTEEN KILOMETERS SOUTHWEST OF THE TOWN.
4. LIGHT PATROL CONTACTS AND SPORADIC SHELLINGS CONTINUED ON THE PLAIN OF JARS IN NORTH CENTRAL LAOS.

FROM: NAUGHTON.

(BX)

USIS

PASS TO AC'S USAID

PRIORITY

(DTD AUG. 4)

1. THE MILITARY SITUATION IN XL LAOS WEDNESDAY REMAINED ESSENTIALLY UNCHANGED.
2. GOVERNMENT TROOPS ON THE WESTERN REACHES OF THE BOLOVENS PLATEAU IN SOUTHERN LAOS ADVANCE SLOWLY TOWARD THE TOWN OF PAKSONG, NOW ABOUT FOURTEEN KILOMETERS EAST OF THE GOVERNMENT FORCE. ANOTHER GOVERNMENT FORCE WAS REPORTED ABOUT TWELVE KILOMETERS NORTHWEST OF THE TOWN.
3. IN THE AREA OF SARAVAME, SOME THIRTY FIVE KILOMETERS NORTH OF THE BOLOVENS PLATEAU, GOVERNMENT PATROLS REPORTED ONLY LIGHT AND SPORADIC CONTACT WITH SMALL NORTH VIETNAMESE CACHE OF FIELD RADIOS.
4. A FEW SCATTERED CLASHES, MAINLY OF THE PLAIN OF JARS, WERE REPORTED FROM OTHER REGIONS OF LAOS.

FROM: NAUGHTON

USIS

PASS TO AC'S USAID

PRIORITY

(DTD AUG. 4)

1. THE MILITARY SITUATION IN ~~XL~~ LAOS WEDNESDAY REMAINED ESSENTIALLY UNCHANGED.
2. GOVERNMENT TROOPS ON THE WESTERN REACHES OF THE BOLOVENS PLATEAU IN SOUTHERN LAOS ADVANCE SLOWLY TOWARD THE TOWN OF PAKSONG, NOW ABOUT FOURTEEN KILOMETERS EAST OF THE GOVERNMENT FORCE. ANOTHER GOVERNMENT FORCE WAS REPORTED ABOUT TWELVE KILOMETERS NORTHWEST OF THE TOWN.
3. IN THE AREA OF SARAVANE, SOME THIRTY FIVE KILOMETERS NORTH OF THE BOLOVENS PLATEAU, GOVERNMENT PATROLS REPORTED ONLY LIGHT AND SPORADIC CONTACT WITH SMALL NORTH VIETNAMESE CACHE OF FIELD RADIOS.
4. A FEW SCATTERED CLASHES, MAINLY OF THE PLAIN OF JARS, WERE REPORTED FROM OTHER REGIONS OF LAOS.

FROM: NAUGHTON

USIS

PASS TO AC'S USAID

PRIORITY

(DTD AUG. 4)

1. ACTING LAO FOREIGN MINISTER KHAMPHAN PANYA DECLARED WEDNESDAY THAT "THE ROYAL LAO GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS THE UNITED NATIONS CAMPAIGN AGAINST ILLEGAL DRUG TRAFFIC, AND LAOS WILL EMPLOY ALL THE MEANS AT ITS DISPOSAL IN THE WAR AGAINST THIS INTERNATIONAL SCOURGE".
2. U.S.SPEAKING BEFORE A SPECIAL PRESS CONFERENCE, MINISTER KHAMPHAN PANYA STRESSED THAT THE ROYAL LAO GOVERNMENT HAD ALREADY SUBMITTED TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AN ANTI-NARCOTIC BILL. ~~THEY~~ ONCE THIS BILL IS PASSED, HE SAID, THE GOVERNMENT WILL HAVE A LEGAL BASE FROM WHICH TO WAGE THE WAR AGAINST THE NARCOTIC TRADE.
3. IN ANSWER TO A QUESTION FROM ONE OF THE REPORTERS, MINISTER KHAMPHAN PANYA STATED THAT THE EXACT MEASURES TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT TO SUPPRESS THE NARCOTIC TRADE WILL BE MADE KNOWN AFTER THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY APPROVES THE ANTI-DRUG LEGISLATION.

FROM: NAUGHTON

VI

BAN HOUEI SAI

VIENTIANE

USIS

091600 AUGUST '71

USIS

PASS TO AC'S USAID

" PRIORITY

(DTD 07 AUGUST 71.)

ADVANCED

1. LAO GOVERNMENT FORCES IN SOUTHERN LAOS FRIDAY/~~ADVANCED~~ CLOSER TO THE TOWN OF PAKSONG ON THE BOLOVENS PLATEAU. GOVERNMENT UNITS ADVANCING FROM THE WEST ALONG ROUTE TWENTY THREE FRIDAY AFTERNOON SECURED NEW POSITIONS AT BAN PHAKOUT AFTER A SERIES OF CLASHES WITH THE RETREATING NORTH VIETNAMESE. BAN PHAKOUT IS LOCATED ABOUT NINE KILOMETERS WEST OF PAKSONG.

ANOTHER GOVERNMENT FORCE, MOVING TOWARD PAKSONG FROM THE NORTHWEST IS NOW LOCATED ALSO ABOUT NINE KILOMETERS FROM THE BOLOWENS PLATEAU TOWN. THIS FORCE ENCOUNTERED FRIDAY SOME NORTH VIETNAMESE RESISTANCE, BUT WAS ABLE TO PUSH THE COMMUNIST TROOPS BACK.

SCATTERED SMALL UNIT CLASHES WERE REPORTED FROM THE PLAIN OF JARS IN NORTH CENTRAL LAOS AND IN SOUTH CENTRAL LAOS IN THE VICINITY OF MUONG PHALANE.

FROM: NAUGHTON.

(BK)

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

ISIS

101540 AUGUST'71.

USIS

PASS TO AC'S USAID

" PRIORITY "

(DTD 09 AUGUST 71)

1. LAO GOVERNMENT TROOPS ON THE BOLOVENS PLATEAU IN SOUTH~~ERN~~ LAOS ADVANCED SUNDAY A LITTLE ~~MORE~~ TOWARD THE TOWN OF PAKSONG, SOME FORTY-EIGHT KILOMETERS EAST OF PAKSE ALONG ROUTE TWENTY-THREE.
2. TWO GOVERNMENT COLUMNS, ONE MOVING ACROSS THE PLATEAU FROM THE NORTHWEST AND THE OTHER ALONG ROUTE TWENTY-THREE FROM THE WEST, ARE REPORTED TO BE ABOUT EIGHT AND SIX KILOMETERS RESPECTIVELY FROM PAKSONG.
3. BOTH COLUMNS REPORTED CLASHES WITH NORTH VIETNAMESE UNITS, BUT GOVERNMENT TROOPS WERE ABLE TO OVERCOME THE NORTH VIETNAMESE RESISTANCE AND TO CONTINUE THEIR ADVANCE.
4. PAKSONG, THE MARKET TOWN OF THE RICH AGRICULTURAL AREA OF THE BOLOVENS PLATEAU, WAS ATTACKED AND OCCUPIED BY THE NORTH VIETNAMESE LAST MAY SIXTEEN.
5. A FEW SCATTERED CLASHES WERE REPORTED BY GOVERNMENT TROOPS OPERATING ON THE PLAIN OF JARS IN NORTH CENTRAL LAOS, BUT THERE WAS NO CHANGE IN THE GENERAL SITUATION IN THAT AREA.

FROM: NAUGHTON.

(BX)

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

USIS

121605 AUG'71

USIS

PASS TO AC'S USAID

" PRIORITY "

(DTD 6 AUG 71)

1. THERE WAS NO SIGNIFICANT CHANGE FRIDAY IN THE MILITARY SITUATION IN LAOS.

2. GOVERNMENT FORCES IN THE SOUTHERN PANHANDLED PANHANDIE CONTINUE TO ADVANCE SLOWLY TOWARD THE TOWN OF PAKSONG ON THE BOLOVENS PLATEAU FROM THE WEST AND FROM THE NORTHWEST. BAD WEATHER HAMPERS THE OPERATIONS IN THAT AREA.

AND
3. SCATTERED LIGHT CLASHES SPORADIC EXCHANGES OF MOTAR/ARTILLERY FIRE WERE REPORTED ~~FROM~~ BOTH FROM THE AREAS OF MOUNG PHALANE IN SOUTH CENTRAL LAOS, SOME NINETY ~~XX~~ KILOMETERS EAST OF SAVANNAKHET AND FROM THE PLAIN OF JARS IN THE NORTH CENTRAL PART OF THE COUNTRY.

FROM: NAUGHTON.

(BX)

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

USSS

131425 AUG'71

USSS

PASS TO AC'S USAID

" PRIORITY "

(DTD 12 AUG 71)

1. SKIRMISHING AND MINOR CLASHES CONTINUE BETWEEN LAO GOVERNMENT FORCES AND NORTH VIETNAMESES TROOPS NEAR THE PROVINCIAL CAPITAL OF SARAVANE / A CITY IN SOUTHERN LAOS RECENTLY RETAKEN BY LAO FORCES.
2. CIVILIAN OFFICIALS VISITING THE TOWN REPORT NO BATTLE DAMAGE OTHER THAN THAT INFLICTED LAST YEAR BY OCCUPYING NORTH VIETNAMESE THE PROVINCE ~~GOVERNMENT~~ GOVERNOR AND HIS STAFF OF CIVIL SERVANTS HAVE NOW ASSUMED ADMINISTRATIVE DUTIES IN THE LIBERATED CAPITAL.
3. IN SOUTHERN LAOS ON THE BOLOVENS PLATEAU, ROYAL LAO FORCES ARE PUSHING TO RETAKE PAKSONG, LOST TO NORTH VIETNAMESE INVADERS IN MAY. LAO TROOPS HAVE PROBED TO WITHIN SIX KILOMETERS OF THE TOWN.

FROM: BARNES

(BX)

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

USIS

150633 Augt. 71

USIS

AC'S

(P R I O R I T Y)

DTD 13 AUGUST 71

1. DELEGATES OF THE LAO NATIONAL ASSEMBLY YESTERDAY PASSED A BILL PROHIBITING THE ILLEGAL CULTURE, ~~T~~RAFFICKING, AND SALE OF OPIUM AND ITS DERIVATIVES WITHIN THE KINGDOM OF LAOS. THIS IS CONSIDERED AN IMPORTANT STEP FORWARD IN BRINGING LAOS INTO COOPERATION WITH OTHER NATIONS ACTING TO CURB THE GROWING WORLDWIDE THREAT OF DRUG ADDICTION AND ABUSE.

2. toDAY PRIME MINISTER PRINCE SOUVANNA PHOUMA EXPRESSED OPTIMISM REGARDING THE PROPOSED MEETING IN PEKING BETWEEN PRESIDENT NIXON AND COMMUNIST CHINESE LEADERS, DESCRIBING THE FUTURE TALKS AS "AN IMPORTANT EVENT". THE LAO PRIME MINISTER ALSO REITERATED HIS WILLINGS TO RESUME PEACE TALKS WITH PATHET LAO LEADER PRINCE SOUPHANOUVONG, OFFERING TO MEET WITH HIS HALF BROTHER IN EITHER VIENTIANE OR ON THE PLAIN OF JARS.

FROM: BARNES.

(PM)

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

USIS

171550 AUG'71

USIS

PASS TO AC'S USAID

" PRIORITY "

(TDT 17 AUG 71)

1. AREPORT FROM SOUTHERN LAOS DISCLOSED THAT A COMPANY OF LAO TROOPS BATTLED TWO NORTH VIETNAMESE COMPANIES ABOUT TW-ENTY KILOMETERS WEST OF SARAVANE, KILLING TWENTY-SEVEN VIETNAMESE AND WOUNDING AT LEAST FORTY. THE LAO TROOPS SEIZED AN EXTENSIVE CACHE OF RICE AND SALT AFTER THE CLASH.
2. ELSEWHERE IN SOUTH LAOS, LAO TROOPS PROBED TO WITHIN THREE KILOMETERS OF PAKSONG ON THE BOLOVENS PLATEAU, BEFORE FALLING BACK TO REGROUP FOR AN ASSAULT TO RECAPTURE THE STRATEGIC TOWN.

FROM: BARNES.

(BY)

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

USIS

191645 AUG'71

USIS

PASS TO AC'S USAID

"PRIORITY "

(DTD 18 AUG 71)

1. HEAVY RESISTANCE BY NORTH VIETNAMESE FORCES WEDNESDAY CAUSE ROYAL LAO GOVERNMENT TROOPS, WHO HAVE BEEN MOVING EASTWARD TOWARD PAKSONG IN SOUTHERN LAOS TO FALL BACK TOWARD BAN PAKOUT, SOME FOUR KILOMETERS FROM PAKSONG, BAD WEATHER SEVERELY LIMITED TACTICAL AIR SUPPORT FOR THE GOVERNMENT FORCES, AND A HEAVY ENEMY ROCKET BARRAGE DISRUPTED GOVERNMENT ARTILLERY SUPPORT.

2. THE ROYAL LAO TROOPS HAVE BEEN MAKING STEADY PROGRESS IN THEIR THREEWEEK OLD DRIVE TO RETAKE PAKSONG, AN IMPORTANT TOWN ON THE WESTERN SIDE OF THE BOLOVENS PLATEAU. AT LAST REPORT, THEY WERE REGROUPING AND WERE EXPECTED TO RESUME THEIR PUSH EAST

FROM: PARNES.

(BX)

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

NSIS

211514Z AUG 71

USIS

PASS TO AC'S USAID

" PRIORITY "

(DTD 21 AUG 71)

1. WIDESPREAD FLOODING OF VIENTIANE IS BEGINNING AS RISING WATERS OF THE MEKONG OVERFLOW EARTHEN DIKES AT SEVERAL POINTS ON THE WESTERN EDGE OF THE CITY.
2. LOCAL RESIDENTS ARE STOCK PILING FOOD AND SUPPLIES IN ANTICIPATION ~~OF A FLASH FLOOD~~ ~~TRANSPORTATION. SUPPLIES IN ANTICIPATION~~ OF A TRANSPORTATION PARALYSIS, AND THE AMERICAN MISSION HAS BEGUN INNOCULATIONS AGAINST CHOLERA AND TYPHOID.
3. THE PROSPECTS OF A FLASH FLOOD APPEAR SLIM, BUT THE PROBABILITY OF A SLOW INUNDATION OF MUCH OF THE CITY IS CERTAIN, SHOULD FURTHER EROSION OF DIKES OCCUR. THE VIENTIANE AIRPORT IS PARTIALLY UNDER WATER AND HAS BEEN CLOSED.

FROM: BARNES.

(BX)

BANNHOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

USIS

211953 AUG' 71

USIS

PRIORITY

(DTD 21 AUG 71)

1. MILITARY ACTIVITY IN LAOS REMAINED STATIC, OWING TO CLOUDS AND HEAVY RAINS.
2. SOME FIGHTING WAS REPORTED ALONG ROUTE 23, BETWEEN PAKSE AND PAKSONG IN SOUTHERN LAOS, WHERE LAO GOVERNMENT TROOPS ARE STILL ATTEMPTING TO RETAKE PAKSONG.
3. WEST OF SARAVANE GOVERNMENT TROOPS CLASHED WITH NORTH VIETNAMESE UNITS AND CAPTURED CASHES OF RICE AND MUNITIONS.

FROM: BARNES.

SD

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

USIS

241150 AUG '71

USIS

PASS TO AC'S USAID

" PRIORITY "

(DTD 23 AUG 71)

1. ALTHOUGH ACTION IN NORTH~~ERN~~ LAOS REMAINS LIGHT, ROYAL LAO FORCES ON THE BOLOVENS PLATEAU CONTINUE TO PROBE ENEMY POSITIONS NEAR PAKSONG, STILL IN NORTH VIETNAMESE HANDS. MINOR CLASHES BY SMALL UNITS OF THE OPPOSING FORCES CHARACTERIZE THE ACTION AND PATROLLING BY BOTH SIDES IS EXTENSIVE, IN PREPARATION FOR A RENEWED DRIVE BY GOVERNMENT TROOPS TO RECAPTURE PAKSONG.
2. IN VIENTIANE, LARGE PARTS OF TOWN ARE UNDER WATER FROM THE OVERFLOWING MEKONG BUT THE WATER LEVEL OF THE RIVER IS SUBSIDING. THE AIRPORT AND ITS FACILITIES ARE FLOODED AND US GOVERNMENT HELICOPTERS ARE OPERATING OUT OF THE CITY FAIRGROUNDS TO CARRY OUT FLOOD RELIEF ACTIVITIES. THE CITY IS NOW AN ISLAND.

FROM: PARNES.

(BX)

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

USIS

251133 AUG'71

USIS

PASS TO AC'S USAID

" PRIORITY "

(DTD 24 AUG 71)

1. THE MEKONG RIVER IS LOWERING, AND ALTHOUGH LARGE PORTIONS OF VIENTIANE ARE UNDER WATER, IT APPEARS THAT DIKES HAVE PREVENTED THE KIND OF WIDESPREAD DAMAGE THAT OCCURED IN 1966. ONLY ONE DROWNING HAS BEEN REPORTED.
2. THE AIRPORT REMAINS FLOODED AND INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED. FLOODING OF FARMLAND SURROUNDING THE CITY HAS RUINED MUCH OF THE RICE CROP. WATER STILL CONTINUES TO FLOW INTO THE LOW GROUND OF THE CITY, BUT AT A DIMINISHING RATE, AND ALL INDICATIONS ARE THAT ~~THE~~ THE CREST HAS PASSED.

FROM: BARNES.

(BX)

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

USIS

251915 AUG'71

~~USIS~~

PRIORITY

(DTD 25 AUG 71)

MAJOR MILITARY ACTIVITY IN LAOS TODAY WAS MOSTLY CONFINED TO SKIRMISHES BETWEEN LAO GOVERNMENT TROOPS AND NORTH VIETNAMESE UNITS NEAR THE SOUTHERN CITIES OF SARAVANE AND PAKSONG. SARAVANE RECENTLY RECAPTURED BY LAO TROOPS, REMAINS IN GOVERNMENT HANDS, BUT PAKSONG, ON THE BOLOVENS PLATEAU, IS STILL OCCUPIED BY NORTH VIETNAMESE FORCES.

FROM: BARNES

SD

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

USIS

261855 Augt. 71

USIS

AC'S

(DTD 26 AUGUST 71)

1. PRIME MINISTER PRINCE SOUVANNAPHOUMA HAS AGAIN REITERATED HIS PROPOSAL FOR PEACE TALKS WITH PATHET LAO. A RELEASE BY THE ROYAL LAO GOVERNMENT QUOTES AN AUG 18 LETTER TO PRINCE SOUPHANOUVONG, PATHET LAO LEADER, IN WHICH THE PRIME MINISTER WROTE "I AM CERTAIN, THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF A MEETING WOULD CAUSE ALL LAO PATRIOTS TO REJOICE,
2. HE SUGGESTED THAT THE MEETING BE HELD IN VTE, ALTERNATING WITH KHANG KHAY ON THE PLAIN OF JARS. HE OFFERED VTE AS THE FIRST MEETING PLACE, PROPOSING THAT A CASE FIRE AND BOMBING HALT BE THE INITIAL TOPEACES.
3. IN A PRESS INTERVIEW PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE FOR THE UNITED NATIONS ON AUG 27 THE PRIME MINISTER SAID, "I INVITE THE NEO LAO HAK XAT (POLITICAL ORGANIZATION OF THE PATHETLAO) TO PARTICIPATE IN THE NEXT LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS. "HE ALSO REITERATED HIS PROPOSAL TO NEUTRALIZE THE PLAIN OF JARS, TRADITIONALLY TERRITORY CONSIDERED THE REALM OF SOUVANNA'S NEUTRALLISTS, AND ON THAT BASE BEGIN CONTROLLED WITHDRAWAL OF FORCES BY BOTH SIDEST.

FROM: BARNES.

(PM)

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

USIS

271915 AUG '71

USIS

PRIORITY

((DTD 27 AUG)

1. THE SEVERE FLOOD THAT HAS PUT TWENTY PERCENT OF THE VTE PLAINS UNDER WATER REACHED A HIGH POINT SEVERAL DAYS AGO,BUT MUCH OF VTE IS STILL IN UNDATED.
2. EVALUATIONS OF DAMAGE ARE BEING MADE.CROP DAMAGE WAS MORE SEVERE THIS YEAR THAN IN THE 1966 FLOOD BECAUSE MORE LAND IS UNDER CULTIVATION AT PRESENT.ONLY THREE LIVES WERE REPORTED LOST,BUT 10,000 PERSONS WERE DRIVEN FROM THEIR HOMES AND ARE BEING FED AND INNOCULATED BY THE AMERICAN MISSION,WORKING WITH THE LAO GOVT.
3. A TOTAL OF 125,000 SANDBAGS WERE SUPPLIED BY THE AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, WITH ALSO FURNISHED MOST OF THE EARTH-MOVING EQUIPMENT TO BUILD DIKES,WHICH WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR AVERTING A WORSE FLOOD.USIAD HAS EXPENDED 35,000 MAN HOUSE OF WORK TO DATE IN DIKE-BUILDING OPERATIONS IN COLLABORATION WITH COUNTERPART LAO MINISTRIES.
4. AN AID OFFICIAL IN CHARGE OF FLOOD CONTROL STATES THAT"COUNTERFLOOD MEASURED ARE TURNING INTO COUNTER-MUD OPERATIONS" BUT ALSO ADDS THAT THE UPSTREAM CITIES OF LP AND BHS REPORT RISING WATER LEVELS AGAIN.

FROM: BARNES.

SD

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

USIS

301242 Augt. 71

USIS

AC'S

DTD 28 AUGUST. 71

NEAR PAKSE SOUTHERN LAOS NINETY-FIVE SOLDIERS AND TEN CIVILIAN OFFICIALS OF THE COMMUNIST PATHET LAO RALLIED TO THE ROYAL LAO GOVERNMENT LAST NIGHT. THEY BROUGHT WEAPONS AND ACCOUNTS OF MISTREATMENT AND INJUSTICE AT THE HANDS OF THE NORTH VIETNAMESE ARMY. THESE RALLIERS ARE THE SECOND LARGE GROUP OF PATHET LAO TO DESERT THE COMMUNIST SIDE IN RECENT MONTHS. EVIDENCE MOUNTS THAT A WIDENING RIFT IS DEVELOPING BETWEEN THE EIGHTY THOUSAND NORTH VIETNAMESE VIETNAMESE TROOPS ILLEGALLY IN LAOS AND THE PATHET LAO ORGANIZATION. REPORTS FROM PAKSE SAY THAT FORMER PATHET LAO TROOPS ARE NOW ASSISTING ROYAL LAO GOVERNMENT FORCES IN THE DRIVE TO RECAPTURE PAKSONG FROM THE NORTH VIETNAMESE.

FROM: BARNES.

(PM)

BAN HOUAISAI

VIENTIANE

USIS

311842 AUG'71

USIS

PRIORITY

(DTD 31 AUG 1971)

1. IN NORTHERN LAOS, MILITARY ACTIVITY ON THE PLAIN OF JARS WAS CONFINED TO MINOR CLASHES AND PATROL ACTIVITY BY BOTH SIDES. HOWEVER, FRIENDLY UNITS ARE WITHDRAWING TO SAFER POSITIONS IN THE NORTH AND NORTHWEST SECTIONS OF THE PLAIN.
2. IN CENTRAL LAOS, GOVERNMENT FORCES HAVE APPROACHED TO WITHIN ONE KILOMETER OF MUONG PHALANE, WHICH IS STILL OCCUPIED BY THE NORTH VIETNAMESE.
3. NEAR SARAVANE, THERE WERE NUMEROUS FIREFIGHTS AND PATROLLING BY LAO FORCES AROUND TOWN THE TOWN, WITH A DISCOVERY OF SMALL ENEMY CACHES OF RICE AND MUNITIONS. CLASHES HAVE BEEN REPORTED AS CLOSE AS TEN KILOMETERS, AND THE AIRFIELD WAS HIT BY EIGHT ROUNDS OF ROCKET FIRE ON THE ~~21st~~ 24th.
4. HEAVY ENEMY RESISTANCE HAS STALLED THE GOVERNMENT DRIVE TO RECAPTURE ~~PAKONG~~ PAKSONG. NORTH VIETNAMESE DEFENSES SIX KILOMETERS FROM THE TOWN ARE WELL ENTRENCHED BUT ARE BEING SOFTENED BY ROYAL LAO AIR FORCE AND ARTILLERY.
5. IN PAKSE AN ADDITIONAL 21 PATHET LAO SOLDIERS RALLIED TO THE GOVERNMENT SIDE BRINGING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF DEFECTORS IN RECENT DAYS TO 126.

FROM: BARNES.

SD

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

USIS

011930 Sept.71

USIS

AC'S

(P R I O R I T Y)

(DTD (1) Sept. 71)

1. FIGHTING NEAR AND AROUND PAKSONG HAS INCREASED, WITH BATTALION-SIZE ACTIONS TAKING PLACE. ENTRENCHED NORTH VIETNAMESE TROOPS BLOCKING THE APPROACH TO THE SOUTHERN LAOTIAN TOWN ARE USING MORTARS, ROCKETS, MINES, ARTILLERY AGAINST LAO GOVERNMENT FORCES, WHO ARE EMPLOYING HEAVY ARTILLERY AND AIR STRIKES AGAINST THE ENEMY. WITHIN THE LAST TWO DAYS, LAO TROOPS EXPENDED MORE THAN ~~600~~ 600 HOWITZER ROUNDS ON BUNKERS AND ENTRENCHED NORTH VIETNAMESE POSITIONS, WHICH ARE ALSO BEING POUNDED BY THE ROYAL LAO AIR FORCE.
2. IN NORTH LAOS, THE SITUATION REMAINS FAIRLY STATIC, WITH LAO FORCES STILL ~~FROM~~ PROBING ENEMY POSITIONS AND PATROLLING LARGE AREAS OF THE PLAIN OF JARS.
3. UNEASY RESIDENTS OF VTE ARE AWAITING THE RISE OF A SECOND CREST OF MEKONG FLOODWATER EXPECTED TO ARRIVE ABOUT SEPTEMBER 2. LARGE AREAS OF THE CITY ARE UNDER WATER, BUT THE CENTRAL BUSINESS AREA IS DRY AND WILL PROBABLY REMAIN SO UNLESS HASTILY BUILT DIKES BREAK OR ERODE.

FROM: BARNES.

(PM)

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

USIS

USIS

PRIORITY

(DTD SEPT 2, 1971)

1. REPORTS FROM PAKSE SAY THAT PATHET LAO SOLDIERS QUESTION THEIR ALLEGIANCE TO THE NORTH VIETNAMESE. THERE HAS BEEN OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS, A CONTINUING FLOW OF INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS OF PATHET LAO SOLDIERS WHO RALLIED TO THE ROYAL LAO GOVERNMENT UNDER ITS ~~AMNESTY~~ ~~XXXXXX~~ PROGRAM. IT WAS NOT UNTIL THIS YEAR, HOWEVER, THAT WIDESPREAD DISAFFECTION BETWEEN THE LAOTIAN COMMUNISTS AND THE NORTH VIETNAMESE ARMY BECAME APPARENT. (AT LATEST TALLY, 80,000 NORTH VIETNAMESE TROOPS ARE IN LAOS.)
2. IN MARCH 1971, NEAR THE SOUTHERN CITY OF PAKSE, 32 PATHET LAO SOLDIERS AND OFFICERS COVERTLY INDICATED TO LAO GENERAL PHASOUK THEIR INTENTION TO DISSOCIATE THEMSELVES FROM NORTH VIETNAMESE CONTROL. AFTER SEVERAL ARMED CLASHES WITH VIETNAMESE REGULARS THE GROUP MADE ITS WAY TO A POINT NEAR PAKSE, WHERE THE RALLIERS WERE WELCOMED BY CIVILIANS AND THE ROYAL LAO MILITARY. OTHER GROUPS FOLLOWED IN APRIL AND MAY, INCLUDING OVER TWENTY OFFICERS, TEN OF THEM FIELD GRADE.
3. AGAIN, ON AUGUST 27, THE PATTERN WAS REPEATED WHEN DEPUTY BATTALION COMMANDER SALEE, OF THE ~~12~~ 12TH PATHET LAO BATTALION, TOGETHER WITH 95 SOLDIERS AND TEN CIVILIAN RANKING OFFICERS, RALLIED TO THE GOVERNMENT SIDE.
4. IN ALL CASES, INTERVIEWED DEFECTORS TOLD STORIES OF MISTREATMENT, OPPRESSION, AND HEAVY TAXATION OF LAO CIVILIANS AT THE HANDS OF THE NORTH VIETNAMESE ARMY. THEY TOLD OF COERCION OF LAO BY THE NORTH VIETNAMESE AND OF THE OBVIOUS ~~ENEMY INTENTION~~ ~~XXXXXXXX~~ INTENTION TO SUBORDINATE LAO INTERESTS TO THOSE OF THE NORTH VIETNAMESE.

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

USIS

031930 Sept. 71

USIS

AC'S

(PRIORITY)

(DTD (3) SEPTEMBER. 71)

1. PATHET LAO TROOPS CONTINUE TO DESERT THE NORTH VIETNAMESE AND RALLY TO THE ROYAL LAO GOVERNMENT. A GROUP OF THIRTY PATHET LAO OF THE ELEVENTH BATTALION ATTEMPTED TO LINK UP WITH GOVERNMENT FORCES NEAR KHONG ISLAND IN SOUTHERN LAOS BUT WERE BLOCKED BY NORTH VIETNAMESE TROOPS, WHO ENGAGED THEM IN A FIREFIGHT. HOWEVER, THREE SOLDIERS FROM THIS GROUP WERE KILLED BUT THREE OTHERS WERE ABLE TO MAKE THEIR WAY TO PAKSE.

2. A GROUP OF 37 PATHET LAO YESTERDAY SAFELY RALLIED TO THE GOVERNMENT SIDE AND TODAY 64 SOLDIERS OF THE FOURTH COMPANY, TWELFTH BATTALION, APPEARED AT WAPIKHAM-PHONG. SIXTY KILOMETERS NORTH OF PAKSE. THEY WERE WELCOMED BY ROYAL LAO FORCES, AMONG THIS COMPANY-SIZE GROUP WERE THREE MAJORS. IN INTERVIEWS WITH REPORTERS THEY TOLD OF THEIR DISCONTENT AT HAVING TO SERVE UNDER THE OF THE NORTH VIETNAMESE. TWO MORE COMPANIES OF PATHET LAO ARE EXPECTED TO RALLY IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

3. ALSO FROM PAKSE WAS ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE RECAPTURE OF LAO NGAM, AN IMPORTANT SOUTHERN TOWN, BY ROYAL LAO TROOPS. GOVERNMENT FORCES ENTERED THE TOWN YESTERDAY, FREEING IT FROM THREE YEARS OF NORTH VIETNAMESE OCCUPATION. LAO NGAM HAD BEEN USED AS A SUPPLY BAS AND STAGING AREA FOR ENEMY OPERATIONS IN SOUTHERN LAOS.

FROM: BARNES.

(PM)

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

USIS

061625 SEPT 71

USIS

AC

" PRIORITY "

(DTD 06 SEPT 71)

1. HEAVY ACTION IN LAOS WAS CONFINED MOSTLY TO THE SOUTH, WHERE FIGHTING NEAR LAO NGAM, SARAVANE, AND PAKSONG HAS SET UP.
2. LAO NGAM WAS FREED FROM NORTH VIETNAMESE OCCUPATION LAST WEEK, AFTER BEING HELD BY THE ENEMY FOR THREE YEARS TO SERVE AS A SUPPLY BASE AND STAGING AREA FOR ENEMY OPERATIONS IN THE SOUTH.
3. SARAVANE, A PROVINCIAL CAPITAL NEAR THE HO CHI MINH TRAIL, WAS LIKE WISE LIFTED FROM NORTH VIETNAMESE CONTROL LAST MONTH, AND LAO CIVILIAN ADMINISTRATION RE-ESTABLISHED FIGHTING CONTINUES, HOWEVER, NEAR AND AROUND.
4. EAST OF PAKSONG, NORTH VIETNAMESE RESISTANCE HAS FORCED A PULLBACK OF ROYAL LAO TROOPS A FEW KILOMETERS, AND A LARGE EXPENDITURE OF ARTILLERY HAS CHARACTERIZE -D THE ACTION FOR THE LAST TWO DAYS.

FROM: BARNES.

(BX)

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

USIS

071725 Sept. 71

USIS

AC'S

(P R I O R I T Y)

(DTD SEPTEMBER 7.1971)

1. MILITARY ACTIVITY IN LAOS CENTERED MONDAY AND THUSDAY IN TWO SEPARATE AREAS: THE PLAIN OF JARS IN NORTH CENTRAL LAOS, AND THE BOLOVENS PLATEAU IN THE SOUTH.
2. AT LAST FOUR SKIRMISHES WERE REPORTED FROM THE PLAIN OF JARS.
3. IN THE SOUTH, LAO GOVERNMENT FORCES REPORTED SEVERAL CONTACTS WITH THE~~IR~~ NORTH VIETNAMESE IN THE IMMEDIATE VICINITY OF SARAVANE, SOME FORTY FIVE KILOMETERS NORTH OF THE BOLOVENS PLATEAU, AND OTHER SKIRMISHES NEAR LAO NGAM, ABOUT TEN KILOMETERS NORTH OF THE PLATEAU. LAO NGAM, RECAPTURED LAST WEEK BY GOVERNMENT TROOPS, HAD BEEN UNDER NORTH VIETNAMESE OCCUPATION FOR OVER THREE YEARS.

FROM: BARNES.

(PM)

USIS

PRIORITY

(DTD SEPTEMBER 8, 1971)

1. SEVERAL SMALL UNIT CLASHES AND ARTILLERY EXCHANGES WERE REPORTED TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY FROM THE PLAIN OF JARS IN NORTH CENTRAL LAOS.
2. SCATTERED LIGHT SKIRMISHES TOOK PLACE IN THE GENERAL VICINITY OF BORIKHAN, SOME ONE HUNDRED TEN KILOMETERS EASTNORTHEAST OF VTE, AND A FEW SMALL ENGAGEMENTS WERE REPORTED IN SOUTHERN LAOS NEAR THE BOLOVENS PLATEAU.
3. IN THE MEANTIME, ANOTHER LARGE GROUP OF PATHET LAO SOLDIERS RALLIED TO THE GOVERNMENT SIDE IN SOUTHERN LAOS, SIXTYTHREE PATHET LAO SOLDIERS LED BY THREE OFFICERS CAME OVER TUESDAY TO THE GOVERNMENT SIDE IN AN AREA ABOUT FORTY KILOMETERS NORTH OF PAKSE. ALL THE RALLIERS BELONGED TO THE SECOND COMPANY OF THE TWELFTH PATHET LAO BATTALION. THE NUMBER OF PATHET LAO TROOPS RALLIED TO THE GOVERNMENT SIDE IN THE LAST FIVE MONTHS IS NOW AROUND FIVE HUNDRED MEN. ALL THE RALLIERS REPORTED THAT THE OPPRESSIVE METHODS USED BY THE NORTH VIETNAMESE TOWARD BOTH THE PATHET LAO AND THE LAO CIVILIANS LED TO INCREASING ENMITY BETWEEN NORTH VIETNAMESE FORCES AND PATHET LAO TROOPS.

FROM: BARNES.

SD

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

USIS

091710 Sept. 71

USIS

AC'S

(P R I O R I T Y)

(DTD SEPTEMBER 9, 1971)

1. MILITARY ACTIVITY IN LAOS CONTINUED AT A MODERATE LEVEL WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY, MOSTLY IN THE AREA OF THE BOLOVENS PLATEAU IN SOUTHERN PART OF THE COUNTRY.
2. SEVERAL SHARP ENGAGEMENTS, AND MORTAR AND ARTILLERY FIRE EXCHANGES, WERE REPORTED WEST AND NORTHWEST OF PAKSONG NEAR THE WESTERN EDGE OF THE PLATEAU. AT ONE POINT ALONG HIGHWAY TWENTY-THREE LINKING PAKSONG WITH PAKSE, GOVERNMENT TROOPS WERE FORCED TO WITHDRAW A FEW KILOMETERS FOLLOWING A STRONG ATTACK BY AT LEAST TWO NORTH VIETNAMESE COMPANIES.
3. ONLY A FEW SCATTERED SKIRMISHES WERE REPORTED FROM OTHER REGIONS OF LAOS.

FROM: BARNES.

(PM)

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

USIS

121625 SEPT '71

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PASS TO AC'S USAID.

" PRIORITY "

(DTD 11 SEPT 71)

1. SCATTERED SMALL UNIT CLASHES AND SPORADIC ARTILLERY EXCHANGES CONTINUED FRIDAY AND SATURDAY IN TWO AREAS OF PRINCIPAL MILITARY ACTIVITY IN LAOS IN RECENT MONTHS, THE PLAIN OF JARS IN THE NORTH CENTRAL PART OF THE COUNTRY AND ON THE BOLOVENS PLATEAU IN SOUTHERN LAOS. ALL THESE SKIRMISHES WERE PATROL-TYPE ENGAGEMENTS AND DID NOT AFFECT THE OVERALL MILITARY SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY.

FROM: BARNES.

(BX)

BAN HOUIE SAI

VIENTIANE

USIS

132230 Sept. 71

USIS

AC'S

(P R I O R I T Y)

(DTD SEPTEMBER 13,1971)

1. MILITARY ACTIVITY IN LAOS SUNDAY AND MONDAY WAS CONCENTRATED MAINLY IN THE SOUTHERN PART OF THE KINGDOM ON THE BOLOVENS PLATEAU, WHERE GOVERNMENT FORCES SECURED NEW POSITIONS FOR A MOVE TO RETAKE PAKSONG NEAR THE WESTERN EDGE OF THE PLATEAU.
2. GOVERNMENT TROOPS ARE NOW DEPLOYED ON THREE SIDES OF THE TOWN, AT SOME POINTS AS CLOSE AS THREE KILOMETER FROM PAKSONG.
3. SEVERAL SHARP ENGAGEMENTS WERE REPORTED DURING THE EARLY PHASE OF THE OPERATION, BUT THE GOVERNMENT FORCE MANAGED TO SECURE MOST OF ITS INITIAL OBJECTIVES.
4. PAKSONG, AN IMPORTANT COMMERCIAL CENTER ON THE FERTILE BOLOVENS PLATEAU, WAS ATTACKED AND CAPTURED BY THE NORTH VIETNAMESE ALMOST FOUR MONTHS AGO.
5. IN THE MEANTIME ANOTHER FIFTYNINE PATHET LAO SOLDIERS, INCLUDING SIX OFFICERS, RALLIED TO THE GOVERNMENT SIDE IN SOUTHERN LAOS.
6. THE RALLIERS, WHO BROUGHT THEIR WEAPONS WITH THEM, CONTACTED LAO GOVERNMENT UNIT AT BAN OKHAT, SOME FORTYFIVE KILOMETERS NORTH OF PAKSE, IN THE SAME GENERAL AREA WHERE RECENTLY A CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF OTHER PATHET LAO TROOPS JOINED THE GOVERNMENT SIDE.
7. THE FIFTYNINE RALLIERS BELONGED TO THE FIRST AND SIXTH COMPANIES OF THE TWELFTH PATHET LAO BATTALION. ONLY A WEEK AGO ALMOST AN ENTIRE COMPANY OF THE SAME BATTALION, SIXTYSEVEN MEN OF THE SECOND COMPANY, RALLIED TO THE GOVERNMENT.
8. THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PATHET LAO SOLDIERS WHO RALLIED TO THE GOVERNMENT SIDE IN RECENT MONTHS IN SOUTHERN LAOS STANDS NOW AT WELL OVER FIVE HUNDRED.
9. A LARGE PROPORTION OF THE RALLIERS WERE INTEGRATED AT THEIR REQUEST INTO THE ROYAL LAO ARMY. MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED OF THEM ARE ACTIVELY IN THE CURRENT OPERATION AIMED AT RETAKING PAKSONG.
10. ONLY VERY LIGHT AND SPORADIC MILITARY ACTIVITY WAS REPORTED FROM OTHER REGIONS OF LAOS.

FROM: BARNES.

(PM)

USIS

"PRIORITITY"

(DTD SEPT 14, 1971)

1. FORMER PL SOLDIERS WHO HAVE RALLIED TO THE LAO GOVERNMENT SIDE AN PROVINCE VERY EFFICIENT IN FIGHTING THE NORTH VIETNAMESE, ACCORDING TO COLONEL KHAM PHET THOUNSAVETH, DEPUTY COMMANDER OF THE FOURTH MILITARY REGION IN SOUTHERN LAOS.
2. MORE THAN FIVE HUNDRED PL SOLDIERS HAVE RALLIED TO THE GOVERNMENT SIDE IN SOUTHERN LAOS IN RECENT MONTHS. THE LATEST GROUP OF FIFTYNINE MEN, INCLUDING SIX OFFIERS, CAME IN MONDAY, REPORTING TO A GOVERNMENT OUTPOST SOME FORTYFIVE KILOMETERS NORTH OF PAKSE.
3. COLONEL KHAMPHET, IN AN ~~INTERVIEW~~ INTERVIEW QUOTED BY THE LAO OFFICIAL PRESS AGENCY "LAO PRESS," SAID MOST OF THE RALLIERS COME FROM THE AREA OF PAKSONG AND WAPIKHAMTHONG, WHERE THE FRICTION BETWEEN THE PL AND THE NORTH VIETNAMESE IS THE MOST SEVERE, COLONEL KHAMPHET SAID ALSO THAT ALMOST NINETY PERCENT OF THE RALLIERS ARE ETHNIC LAO, BUT OTHER ETHNIC GROUPS ARE ALSO REPRESENTED.
4. THE COLONEL EMPHASIZED THAT THE RALLIERS WERE RECEIVED BY THE ROYAL LAO ARMY LIKE BROTHERS AND ARE WELL CARED FOR BY THE AUTHORIZES. MANY OF THEM VOLUNTEERED TO FIGHT AGAINST THE NORTH VIETNAMESE AND WERE INTEGRATED INTO THE LAOTIAN ARMY. "THEY ARE VERY GOOD SOLDIER, " ~~SIX~~ SAID COLONEL KHAMPHET. "THEY KNOW THE TERRAIN ^{well} ~~well~~, THEY KNOW ENEMY POSITIONS, AND THEIR COMMANDO UNITS OF ABOUT TEN MEN EACH EASILY INFILTRATE NORTH VIETNAMESE DEFENSES, WHERE ^{THEY} ~~THEY~~ INFLECT HEAVY LOSSES ON THE ENEMY.

FROM: BARNES.

SD

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

USIS

151905 Sept. 71

USIS

AC'S

P R I O R I T Y

(DTD SEPTEMBER 15, 1971)

1. SHARP FIGHTING CONTINUED WEDNESDAY ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE TOWN OF PAKSONG NEAR THE WESTERN EDGE OF THE BOLOVENS PLATEAU IN SOUTHERN LAOS.
2. LAO GOVERNMENT FORCES ENTERED PAKSONG TUESDAY AND ENCOUNTERED STRONG RESISTANCE FROM NORTH VIETNAMESE TROOPS WELL ENTRENCHED IN BUNKERS AND IN FORTIFIED BUILDINGS OF THE TOWN. FIREFIGHTS AND ENGAGEMENTS CONTINUED ALL DAY, TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY, WITH GOVERNMENT FORCES ATTACKING FROM THE EASTERN AND SOUTHERN SECTORS OF PAKSONG. OTHER GOVERNMENT ~~UNIT~~ UNIT, LOCATED WEST OF PAKSONG ALONG ROUTE TWENTY-THREE, ARE ENCOUNTERING VERY STIFF NORTH VIETNAMESE OPPOSITION, AND SO FAR, WERE NOT ABLE TO ADVANCE TOWARD THE EMBATTLED TOWN.
3. IT IS ESTIMATED THAT AT LEAST THREE BATTALIONS OF THE NINTH NORTH VIETNAMESE REGIMENT ARE DEFENDING PAKSONG. PAKSONG FELL TO THE NORTH VIETNAMESE ON MAY 16TH ALMOST EXACTLY FOUR MONTHS AGO.
4. LAO GOVERNMENT FORCES HAVE BEEN TRYING TO RECAPTURE THE TOWN SINCE EARLY AUGUST, BUT WERE NEVER ABLE TO COME AS CLOSE TO THEIR OBJECTIVE AS THEY ARE NOW.
5. OTHER AREAS OF LAOS REMAINED RELATIVELY QUIET, WITH ONLY A FEW LIGHT SKIRMISHES REPORTED FROM THE PLAIN OF JARS IN NORTH CENTRAL PART OF THE COUNTRY.

FROM: BARNES.

(PM)

USIS

PRIORITY

1. THE SOUTHER LAOTIAN TOWN OF PAKSONG ON THE BOLOVENS PLATEAU IS BACK IN GOVERNMENT HANDS ~~INTER~~ AFTER A FOUR MONTHS OCCUPATION BY THE NORTH VIETNAMESE.
2. THE FIVE DAYS BATTLE FOR PAKSONG SEEMS TO BE DRAWING TO A CLOSE, WITH ALMOST ALL OF THE TOWN SECURED BY GOVERNMENT FORCES. AT LAST REPORT THURSDAY, ~~MO~~ MOPPING-UP OPERATIONS CONTINUED AGAINST SMALL POCKETS OF NORTH VIETNAMESE RESISTANCE.
3. AFTER CLEARING THE TOWN, GOVERNMENT UNITS MOVED ON TO SECURE THE AIRSTRIP, JUST NORTH OF PAKSONG. THE NORTH VIETNAMESE, WHO ARE REPORTED TO BE DEFENDING THE AIRSTRIP WITH SOME TENACITY, ARE BEING GRADUALLY PUSHED BACK AND LAO MILITARY AUTHORITIES EXPECT TO BE SOON IN FULL CONTROL OF THE AIRFIELD.
4. THE FIGHTING FOR PAKSONG WAS REPORTED AS VERY SHARP, AND BOTH SIDES SUFFERED NUMEROUS CASUALTIES. A ROYAL LAO ARMY SPOKESMAN STATED THAT AT LEAST 137 NORTH VIETNAMESE ~~SOLDIERS~~ SOLDIERS HAD BEEN KILLED, WHILE GOVERNMENT FORCES LOST THIRTY-MEN KILLED IN ACTION.
5. THE TOWN ITSELF DID NOT SUFFERED MUCH DAMAGE DURING THE FIGHTING. IN ORDER TO SPARE THE TOWN, GOVERNMENT FORCES DID NOT USE ARTILLERY OR AIRSTRIKES AGAINST PAKSONG EVEN THOUGH THE NORTH VIETNAMESE FORTIFIED THEMSELVES IN MANY BUILDINGS AND HAD TO BE DRIVEN OUT WITH SMALL ARMS FIRE AND HAND GRENADES.
6. A FEW SCATTERED CLASHES WERE REPORTED NORTH OF THE BOLOVENS PLATEAU IN THE AREAS OF LAO NGAM AND SARAVANE. THE REST OF THE COUNTRY WAS RELATIVELY QUIET WITH ONLY SOME ~~XX~~ SMALL SKIRMISHES REPORTED FROM THE PLAIN OF JARS IN NORTH CENTRAL LAOS.

FROM: BARNES.

SD

BAN H O U E I S A I V I E N T I A N E

USIS

172245 Sept. 71

USIS

AC'S

(P R I O R I T Y)

(DTD SEPTEMBER 17,1971)

1. LAO GOVERNMENT TROOPS FRIDAY CONTINUED MOPPING UP OPERATIONS IN THE IMMEDIATE VICINITY OF THE TOWN OF PAKSONG ON THE WESTERN ~~EDGE~~ OF THE BOLOVENS PL IN SOUTHERN LAOS.
2. PAKSONG WAS RECAPTURED THURSDAY AFTER A FIVE DAY BATTLE WITH THE NORTH VIETNAMESE WHO OCCUPIED THE TOWN SINCE MAY 16.
3. BY SUNDOWN THURSDAY ALL OF PAKSONG, INCLUDING THE AIRSTRIP JUST NORTH OF TOWN, WAS IN GOVERNMENT HANDS. THE NORTH VIETNAMESE LEFT WELL OVER ONE HUNDRED OF THEIR DEAD SCATTER AROUND THE SCATTER OF THE TOWN. LAO MILITARY SPOKESMAN INDICATED THAT AT LEAST 137 NORTH VIETNAMESE BODIES WERE FOUND AFTER THE BATTLE, WHILE THE GOVERNMENT LOSSES WERE GIVEN, AS 32 KILLED AND 57 WOUNDED.
4. GOVERNMENT UNITS ARE PREPARING NOW TO CLEAR THE LAST STRETCH OF ROUTE TWENTY THREE LEADING TO PAKSONG FROM PAKSE. IT IS ESTIMATED THAT SOME THREE TO FOUR HUNDRED NORTH VIETNAMESE TROOPS ARE STILL DEPLOYED ALONG THE ROUTE IN NUMEROUS AND WELL FORTIFIED
5. BUNKERS. A FEW LIGHT SKIRMISHES WERE REPORTED FROM THE PLAIN OF JARS IN NORTH CENTRAL LAOS. THE REST OF THE COUNTRY REMAINED RELATIVELY QUIET.

FROM: BARNES.

(PM)

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

USIS

181435 SEPT'71

USIS

PRIORITY

(DTD 18 SEPT 71)

1. LAO GOVERNMENT FORCES SATURDAY CONTINUED MOPPING-UP OPERATIONS IN THE IMMEDIATE VICINITY OF THE RECENTLY RECAPTURED TOWN OF PAKSONG ON THE BOLOVENS PLATEAU IN SOUTHERN LAOS.
2. THE ROAD FROM PAKSONG TO PAKSE, A LITTLE MORE THAN FIFTY KILOMETERS TO THE WEST, IS NOT YET OPEN. SOME FOUR HUNDRED NORTH VIETNAMESE TROOPS ARE ENTRENCHED ALONG A SEVEN-KILOMETERS STRETCH OF THE HIGHWAY CLOSE TO PAKSONG, AND GOVERNMENT UNITS TRYING TO DISLODGE THEM ARE MEETING STRONG OPPOSITION.
3. CIVILIANS ARE GRADUALLY RETURNING TO PAKSONG, AND SEVERAL SHOPS ARE ALREADY OPEN FOR BUSINESS. THE TOWN ITSELF SUFFERED VERY LITTLE DAMAGE IN THE RECENT FIFTHING. NO AIR STRICKES WERE CONDUCTED AGAINST PAKSONG. THE PAKSONG HOSPITAL, HOWEVER, OPERATED BY THE PHILLIPINO TEAM FROM "OPERATING BROTHERHOOD" WAS COMPLETELY DESTROYED BY THE NORTH VIETNAMESE SOON AFTER THEY CAPTURED THE TOWN ON MAY SIXTEENTH.
4. SEVERAL SMALL UNITS CLASHES WERE REPORTED NEAR LAO NGAM, ANOTHER LOCALITY RECAPTURED BY GOVERNMENT FORCES ABOUT TWO WEEKS AGO. LAO NGAM, LOCATED ABOUT THIRTY KILOMETERS NORTH OF PAKSONG, HAD BEEN UNDER NORTH VIETNAMESE OCCUPATION FOR ALMOST THREE YEARS.
5. A FEW SCATTERED SKIRMISHES WERE REPORTED FROM THE PLAIN OF JARS IN NORTH CENTRAL LAOS AND IN AN AREA ABOUT TWENTY FIVE KILOMETERS NORTHEAST OF THE ROYAL CAPITAL OF LUANG PRABANG. THE REST OF THE COUNTRY REMAINED RELATIVELY QUIET.

FROM: BARNES.

SD

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

USIS

220627 Sept. 71

USIS

AC'S

(P R I O R I T Y)

(DTD SEPTEMBER 21, 1971)

1. MILITARY SITUATION IN LAOS MONDAY AND TUESDAY REMAINED ESSENTIALLY UNCHANGED WITH NO LARGER ENGAGEMENTS REPORTED.
2. IN THE VICINITY OF THE RECENTLY RECAPTURED TOWN OF PAKSONG IN SOUTHERN LAOS, GOVERNMENT FORCES ARE CONDUCTING CLEARING OPERATIONS SEVERAL SMALL UNIT CLASHES WERE REPORTED, INDICATING THAT NORTH VIETNAMESE TROOPS ARE STILL IN THE AREA. EAST OF PAKSONG, GOVERNMENT UNITS, SUPPORTED BY ARTILLERY AND ROYAL LAO WARPLANES, PROGED STRONG NORTH VIETNAMESE DEFENSIVE POSITIONS ALONG ROUTE TWENTY-THREE WHICH LINKS PAKSONG WITH PAKSE. SOME TWENTY FIVE NORTH VIETNAMESE SOLDIERS WERE KILLED IN THIS ACTION BUT THEIR POSITIONS REMAINED UNBROKEN.
3. A FEW SKIRMISHES WERE REPORTED NORTH OF THE BOLOVENS PLATEAU, NEAR LAO NGAM AND SARAVANE, SEVERAL MORE FARTHER NORTH, IN THE VICINITY OF MUONG PHALANE AND A NUMBER OF PATROL CLASHES AND ARTILLERY EXCHANGES TOOK PLACE ON THE PLAIN OF JARS IN NORTH CENTRAL LAOS,

FROM: BARNES.

(PM)

USIS

PRIORITY

(DTD 22 SEPT 71)

1. LAO GOVERNMENT TROOPS, ENGAGED IN MOPPING-UP OPERATIONS AROUND THE SOUTHERN TOWN OF PAKSONG, REPORTED TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY SEVERAL SHELLINGS BY NORTH VIETNAMESE MORTARS AND ROCKETS. IN THE MEANTIME, GOVERNMENT ~~DE~~ FORCES WEST OF PAKSONG ARE MOVING TOWARD FORTIFIED NORTH VIETNAMESE POSITIONS, BLOCKING PART OF THE ROAD THAT LINKS PAKSONG WITH PAKSE.
2. FARTHER NORTH, IN THE GENERAL AREA OF LAO ~~NEE~~ NGAM, JUST NORTH OF THE BOLOVENS PLATEAU GOVERNMENT UNITS DISCOVERED A NORTH VIETNAMESE SUPPLY DEPOT OF AMMUNITION AND OTHER EQUIPMENT. NORTH VIETNAMESE SOLDIERS GUARDING THE DEPOT FLED AT THE APPROACH OF GOVERNMENT TROOPS.
3. SEVERAL CLASHES WERE REPORTED IN THE VICINITY OF MUONG PHALANE, SOME EIGHTY KILOMETERS EAST OF SAVANNAKHET.
4. A FEW LIGHT CONTACTS AND ARTILLERY EXCHANGES TOOK PLACE ON THE PLAIN OF JARS IN NORTH CENTRAL LAOS WHILE THE REST OF THE COUNTRY WAS REPORTED CALM.

FROM: BARNES.

SD

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

USIS

240708 Sept. 71

USIS

AC'S

(P R I O R I T Y)

(DTD SEPTEMBER 23, 1971)

1. LAO GOVERNMENT FORCES, ENGAGED IN CLEARING OPERATIONS AROUND THE TOWN OF PAKSONG ON THE BOLOVENS PLATEAU REPORTED ONLY TWO CONTACTS WITH NORTH VIETNAMESE TROOPS. IN ONE INCIDENT NORTH VIETNAMESE GUNNERS SHILLED A GOVERNMENT UNIT SOME SEVEN KILOMETERS NORTHEAST OF PAKSONG. ANOTHER CLASH OCCURRED ALONG ROUTE TWENTY-THREE, SOME EIGHT KILOMETERS WEST OF PAKSONG, WHERE GOVERNMENT TROOPS FAILED TO DISLODGE THE NORTH VIETNAMESE FROM THEIR WELL FORTIFIED BUNKERS, BLOCKING THE HIGHWAY WHICH LINKS PAKSONG WITH PAKSE. BAD WEATHER PREVENTED THE USE OF LAO WAR-PLANES IN SUPPORT OF GOVERNMENT TROOPS.
2. THE VILLAGE OF SOUKHOUMA, ABOUT FIFTY-FIVE KILOMETERS SOUTH OF PAKSE WAS ATTACKED TUESDAY NIGHT BY A GROUP OF COMMUNIST COMMANDOS FIRING SMALL ARMS AND B-40 ROCKETS. THE ATTACKERS KILLED TWO VILLAGE MILITIAMEN AND WOUNDED THE VILLAGE CHIEF AND ONE SOLDIER.
3. SEVERAL SMALL UNIT CLASHES WERE REPORTED FROM THE PLAIN OF JARS IN NORTH CENTRAL LAOS. GOVERNMENT TROOPS IN THE AREA DISCOVERED A SIZEABLE CASHE OF NORTH VIETNAMESE AMMUNITION OF DIFFERENT TYPES.
4. COMMUNIST SOLDIERS AMBUSHED TWO CIVILIAN TRUCKS ON HIGHWAY THIRTEEN BETWEEN VIENTIANE AND THE ROYAL CAPITAL OF LUANG PRABANG. THE TRUCKS WERE DESTROYED AND TWO CIVILIANS WERE KILLED IN THE ATTACK.
5. THE REST OF THE COUNTRY WAS REPORTED RELATIVELY QUIET. FROM: BARNES. (PM)

USIS

PRIORITY

(DTD 24 SEPTEMBER 1971)

1. NORTH VIETNAMESE TROOPS STILL HELD TUESDAY AND FRIDAY IN THEIR STRONG BANKERS ALONG ROUTE TWENTY-THREE IN SOUTHERN LAOS, PREVENTING GOVERNMENT FORCES FROM OPENING THE ROAD FROM PAKSE TO THE RECENTLY RECAPTURED TOWN OF PAKSONG ON THE BOLOVENS PLATEAU.
2. GOVERNMENT PROBES FROM BOTH EAST AND WEST FAILED TO DISLodge THE NORTH VIETNAMESE, WHO COUNTER EACH GOVERNMENT ATTEMPT WITH HEAVY MORTAR AND SMALL ARMS FIRE.
3. OTHER GOVERNMENT UNITS, ENGAGED IN CLEARING OPERATIONS NORTH AND NORTHEAST OF PAKSONG REPORTED SEVERAL NORTH VIETNAMESE ATTACKS BY MORTAR AND ROCKET FIRE.
4. FARTHER NORTH, GOVERNMENT TROOPS REPORTED SEVERAL CLASHES WITH THE NORTH VIETNAMESE IN THE VICINITY OF MUONG PHALANE, SOME EIGHTY KILOMETERS EAST OF SAVANNAKHET ALONG ROUTE NINE.
5. SMALL UNIT SKIRMISHES AND ARTILLERY EXCHANGES WERE ALSO REPORTED FROM THE PLAIN OF JARS IN NORTH CENTRAL LAOS.

FROM: BARNES,

SD

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

USIS

251558 SEPT'71

USIS

PLEASE PASS TO ACIS USAID

" PRIORITY "

(DTD 25 SEPT 71)

1. MILITARY SITUATION IN LAOS FRIDAY AND SATURDAY REMAINED BASICALLY UNCHANGED.
2. SMALL UNIT ENGAGEMENTS CONTINUED IN THE VICINITY OF THE RECENTLY RECAPTURED TOWN OF PAKSONG ON THE BOLOVENS PLATEAU IN SOUTHERN LAOS. GOVERNMENT TROOPS CONTINUE THEIR OPERATIONS TO CLEAR THE AREA OF THE NORTH VIETNAMESE BUT SO FAR DID NOT SUCCEED TO OPEN THE ROAD LINKING PAKSONG WITH PAKSE. IN THE NORTH VIETNAMESE ARE WELL DUG IN ALONG THE EASTERN PORTION OF THE ROAD AND ALL ATTEMPTS TO DISLodge THEM ARE COUNTERED BY HEAVY MORTAR, ROCKET AND SMALL ARMS FIRE.
3. GOVERNMENT FORCES NORTH OF THE BOLOVENS PLATEAU FOUGHT A SHARP ENGAGEMENT WITH AN ESTIMATED TWO NORTH VIETNAMESE COMPANIES IN AN AREA ABOUT ELEVEN KILOMETERS SOUTHWEST OF SARAVANE: AT LEAST TWENTY NORTH VIETNAMESE ~~M~~ ^{MANY} SOLDIERS WERE KILLED AND ~~NINETY~~ WOUNDED, WHILE THE GOVERNMENT FORCES SUFFERED VERY LIGHT CASUALTIES.
4. SCATTERED CLASHES WERE REPORTED IN THE VICINITY OF MUONG PHALANE IN SOUTH CENTRAL LAOS, ABOUT EIGHTY KILOMETERS EAST OF SARAVANE.
5. NUMEROUS SMALL UNIT SKIRMISHES, SOME OF THEM QUITE INTENSE, WERE ALSO REPORTED FROM THE AREA OF THE PLAIN OF JARS IN NORTH CENTRAL LAOS.

FROM: BERNES.

(BX)

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

USIS

271808 Sept. 71

USIS

AC'S

P R I O R I T Y

(DTD SEPTEMBER 27, 1971)

1. LAO GOVERNMENT FORCES SUNDAY AND MONDAY CONTINUED CONSOLIDATING THEIR POSITIONS AROUND MUONG SOU, A FORMER NERTRALIST STRONG HOLD JUST OFF THE NORTH WESTERN EDGE OF THE PLAIN OF JARS. IT HAD BEEN RECAPTURED BY GOVERNMENT TROOPS SATURDAY, AFTER BEING HELD BY THE NORTH VIETNAMESE FOR EIGHT MONTHS. GOVERNMENT UNITS MET WITH ONLY LIGHT NORTH VIETNAMESE OPPOSITIONS.
2. SEVERAL SKIRMISHES AND ARTILLERY EXCHANGES, SOME OF THEM SHARP, WERE REPORTED FROM THE PLAIN OF JARS ITSELF, MOSTLY IN THE CENTRAL PART OF THE PLAIN.
3. SPORADIC CLASHES AND SHELLINGS CONTINUED AROUND MUONG PHALANE IN SOUTH CENTRAL LAOS.
4. FARTHER SOUTH, GOVERNMENT TROOPS ENGAGED IN CLEARING OPERATIONS AROUND THE TOWN OF PAKSONG ON THE BOLOVENS PLATEAU REPORTED SEVERAL SMALL UNIT ENGAGEMENTS IN THE GENERAL AREA OF PAKSONG. THE ROAD FROM PAKSONG TO PAKSE REMAINS CLOSED, WITH THE NORTH VIETNAMESE HOLDING ONTO THEIR STRONGLY FORTIFIED POSITION ALONG THE ROAD ABOUT FOUR KILOMETERS FROM PAKSONG.

FROM: BARNES.

(PM)

USIS

AC'S

(P R I O R I T Y)

(DTD SEPTEMBER 29, 1971)

1. FORTY-SIX MORE PATHET LAO SOLDIERS AND CADRES HAVE RALLIED TO THE GOVERNMENT SIDE IN SOUTHERN LAOS, BRINGING TO SIXTY - SEVEN THE TOTAL FOR THE PAST TWO DAYS.
2. LIKE THE GROUP OF TWENTY-ONE THAT RALLIED IN A DIFFERENT LOCALITY YESTERDAY, THE MOST RECENT RALLIERS BELONGED TO THE TWELFTH PATHET LAO BATALION. TWO OFFICERS AND FIVE CIVILIAN OFFICIALS, ONE OF THEM A VILLAGE CHIEF, WERE AMONG THE FORTY-SIX. AND LIKE THE OTHER GROUP, THE SOLDIERS CAME WITHOUT WEAPONS, SAYING THAT THE NORTH VIETNAMESE RECENTLY TOOK THEIR ARMS AWAY.
3. THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PATHET LAO SOLDIERS AND OFFICIALS WHO HAVE RALLIED TO THE GOVERNMENT SIDE SO FAR THIS YEAR IS JUST OVER SEVEN HUNDRED, COMPARED TO ONLY ABOUT TWO HUNDRED LAST YEAR.
4. LAO GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IN PAKSE DISCLOSED THAT AN UNUSUAL RALLIER JOINED THE GOVERNMENT ON SEPTEMBER ELEVENTH. HIS NAME ISBOUN SONG, AND HE ACTED IN THE SOUTH AS A SPECIAL ENVOY OF PATHET LAO LEADER PRINCE SOUPHANOUVONG. HE WAS CHARGED WITH FINDING OUT THE REASONS FOR THE GROWING FRICTION BETWEEN THE PATHET LAO AND THE NORTH VIETNAMESE AND ORDERED TO TRY AND MEND THE BREACH. DISCOVERING THAT THE ENMITY BETWEEN THE PATHET LAO AND THE NORTH VIETNAMESE WAS BEYOND RECONCILIATION, BOUNSONG RALLIED TO THE ROYAL GOVERNMENT.
5. IN THE FIGHTING IN THE SOUTH, GOVERNMENT FORCES, AFTER A SHARP ENGAGEMENT, RECAPTURED THE AGRICULTURAL STATION ON ROUTE TWENTY-THREE, SOME SEVEN KILOMETERS WEST OF PAKSONG. FOR ABOUT TWO WEEKS NOW, SINCE THE RECAPTURE OF PAKSONG BY GOVERNMENT FORCES ON SEPTEMBER 16, THE NORTH VIETNAMESE HAD BEEN HOLDING OUT IN WELL FORTIFIED POSITIONS IN AND AROUND THE AGRICULTURAL STATION, PREVENTING THE OPENING OF THE ROAD BETWEEN PAKSONG AND PAKSE. AS OF WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON THE ROAD IS NOT YET DECLARED OPEN FOR TRAVEL. GOVERNMENT UNITS CONTINUED MOPPING UP OPERATIONS IN THIS AREA.
6. FARTHER NORTH, A FEW SCATTERED CLASHES WERE REPORTED IN THE GENERAL AREA SOME TEN KILOMETERS SOUTHWEST OF SARAVANE. SPORADIC SKIRMISHES TOOK PLACE NEAR MUONG PHALANE IN SOUTH CENTRAL LAOS, ABOUT EIGHTY KILOMETERS EAST OF SAVANNAKHET.
7. ONLY A FEW LIGHT ENGAGEMENTS WERE REPORTED FROM THE PLAIN OF JARS. GOVERNMENT UNITS ENGAGED IN CLEARING OPERATIONS IN THE VICINITY OF RECENTLY RECAPTURED POSITIONS AROUND MUONG SOU, NORTHWEST OF THE PLAIN, REPORTED AT LEAST TWO ATTACKS BY MORTAR FIRE AGAINST THEIR PATROLS.

FROM: BARNES.

(PM)

USIS

PRIORITY

(DTD 30 SEPT 71)

1. LAO GOVERNMENT FORCES CONTINUE CLEARING OPERATIONS ALONG ROUTE TWENTY-THREE JUST WEST OF PAKSONG IN SOUTHERN LAOS. WEDNESDAY, GOVERNMENT TROOPS MOVING FROM THE WEST RE-OCCUPIED THE AGRICULTURAL STATION LOCATED ALONG THE ROAD ABOUT SEVEN KILOMETERS WEST OF PAKSONG. LATER ANOTHER UNIT ADVANCED TO WITHIN FOUR KILOMETERS OF THE STATION FROM THE EAST. THE NORTH VIETNAMESE HAVE STRONG DEFENSIVE POSITIONS ALONG THIS STRETCH OF ROUTE TWENTY-THREE, AND THE CLEARING OPERATION BY GOVERNMENT FORCES CONTINUES.
2. A FEW SCATTERED SKIRMISHES TOOK PLACE IN THE GENERAL VICINITY OF PAKSONG. ONE CLASH WAS REPORTED FROM AN AREA NEAR THE CAMBODIAN BORDER, ON THE MEKONG RIVER SOUTH OF KHONG ISLAND.
3. INTERMITTENT FIGHTING CONTINUED NEAR MUONG PHALANE, SOME EIGHTY KILOMETERS EAST OF SAVANNAKHET ALONG ROUTE NINE. THE NORTH VIETNAMESE ARE REPORTED TO BE WELL FORTIFIED IN THIS ABANDONED TOWN AND, SO FAR, EFFORTS TO DISLODGE THEM HAVE BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL.
4. ONLY A FEW LIGHT CONTACTS, WERE REPORTED FROM THE PLAIN OF JARS IN NORTH CENTRAL LAOS.

FROM: BARNES.

SD

BAN HOUAI SAI

VIENTIANE

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011910 Sept. 71

USIS

AC'S

P R I O R I T Y

(DTD 01 OCTOBER 1971)

1. LAO GOVERNMENT FORCES WERE REPORTED FRIDAY TO HAVE CLEARED THE ROAD BETWEEN PAKSE AND PAKSONG ON THE BOLOVENS PLATEAU IN SOUTHERN LAOS. TWO GOVERNMENT COLUMNS, ONE MOVING FROM THE WEST AND ANOTHER FROM THE EAST, LINKED UP ON ROUTE TWENTY-THREE ABOUT SIX KILOMETERS EAST OF PAKSONG THE NORTH VIETNAMESE HELD A FEW KILOMETERS OF THIS ROAD FROM WELL PREPARED DEFENSIVE POSITIONS FOR ABOUT TWO WEEKS AFTER THE GOVERNMENT TROOPS ENTERED PAKSONG.
2. TWENTY-EIGHT MORE PATHET LAO SOLDIERS RALLIED YESTERDAY TO THE GOVERNMENT SIDE IN SARAVANE, NORTH OF THE BOLOVENS PLATEAU, BRINGING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PATHET LAO RALLIERS SINCE MARCH THIS YEAR TO SEVEN HUNDRED THIRTY. THE MOST RECENT RALLIERS STATED THAT THEY BELONGED TO THE TWELFTH PATHET LAO BATTALION AS A GUERRILLA UNIT. THEY BROUGHT ONLY HAND GRENADES WITH THEM, NO OTHER WEAPONS, SAYING, LIKE TWO OTHER GROUPS BEFORE THEM THAT THE NORTH VIETNAMESE HAD RECENTLY DISARMED THEM.
3. SMALL UNIT ENGAGEMENTS CONTINUED AROUND MUONG PHALANE, SOME EIGHTY KILOMETERS EAST OF SIEMANNAKHET IN SOUTH CENTRAL LAOS.
4. IN NORTH CENTRAL LAOS, LAO GOVERNMENT TROOPS, CLEARING THE AREA IN THE VICINITY OF THE RECENTLY RECAPTURED POSITION OF MUONG SOUL, NORTHWEST OF THE PLAIN OF JARS, DISCOVERED A NORTH VIETNAMESE MUNITIONS CACHE CONTAINING ABOUT HALF A TON OF B-40 ROCKETS. SEVERAL SHARP CLASHES WERE REPORTED FROM THE PLAIN OF JARS IT SELF, BUT THERE WAS NO CHANGE IN THE GENERAL SITUATION THERE. FROM: BARNES. (PM)

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

USIS

021703 OCT'71

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PRIORITY

(DTD 02 OCT 71)

1. MILITARY ACTIVITY IN LAOS FRIDAY AND SATURDAY REMAINED LIGHT WITH NO SIGNIFICANT ENGAGEMENTS REPORTED.
2. GOVERNMENT FORCES, WHICH FRIDAY CLEARED THE NORTH VIETNAMESE FROM THEIR LAST FORTIFIED POSITIONS ALONG THE PAKSONG-PAKSE ROAD IN SOUTHERN LAO CONTINUE MOPPING-UP OPERATIONS IN THE AREA.
3. AT LEAST TWO SMALL UNIT SKIRMISHES WERE REPORTED IN THE GENERAL VICINITY OF SARAVANE, NORTH OF THE BOLOVENS PLATEAU.
4. SEVERAL LIGHT CLASHES TOOK PLACE ON THE PLAIN OF JARS IN NORTH CENTRAL LAOS. FOLLOWING
NORTH
TWO OF THESE ACTIONS, GOVERNMENT UNITS CAPTURED SEVERAL VIETNAMESE WEAPONS
AMMUNITION, AND ASSORTED MILITARY EQUIPMENT.
5. GOVERNMENT UNITS DEPLOYED SOME THIRTY-FIVE KILOMETERS NORTH OF THE ROYAL CAPITAL
OF LUANG PRABANG REPORTED TWO CONTACTS WITH NORTH VIETNAMESE TROOPS IN THE AREA.

FROM: BARNES.

SD

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

USIS

041520 OCT'71

USIS

PASS TO AC'S USAID

" PRIORITY "

(DTD 04 OCT 71.)

1. MILITARY ACTIVITY IN LAOS SUNDAY AND MONDAY REMAINED AT A RELATIVELY LOW LEVEL
2. SEVERAL SCATTERED SKIRMSHES WERE REPORTED FROM THE PLAIN OF JARS AND NEAR ~~MOU~~ MOUNG SOUL, NORTHWEST OF THE PLAIN.
3. IN SOUTH CENTRAL LAOS, A FEW CLASHES TOOK PLACE, MOSTLY IN THE VICINITY OF ~~MOU~~ MOUNG ~~DE~~ PHAANE, SOME EIGHTY KILOMETERS EAST OF SARAVANE.
4. IN SOUTHERN LAOS, LIGHT CONTACTS CONTINUED NEAR ROUTE TWENTY-THREE LINKING. PAKSE WITH PAKSONG. GOVERNMENT FORCES CLEARED THE LAST SECTION OF THIS ROAD CLOSE TO PAKSONG, BUT SOME NORTH VIETNAMESE UNITS ARE STILL PRESENT IN THE AREA AND THE ROAD HAS NOT BEEN DECLARED SAFE FOR CIVILIAN TRAFFIC.

FROM: BARNES.

(BX)

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

USIS

051510 OCT '71

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PASS TO AC'S USAID.

" PRIORITY "

(DTD 05 OCT 71)

1. SCATTERED SMALL UNIT SKIRMISHES AND OCCASIONAL ARTILLERY EXCHANGES CONTINUED MONDAY AND TUESDAY IN VARIOUS PARTS OF LAOS, BUT THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE IN THE OVERALL MILITARY SITUATION.
2. IN THE SOUTH, GOVERNMENT FORCES ENGAGED IN CLEARING OPERATIONS ALONG THE ROAD BETWEEN PAKSE AND PAKSONG ON THE BOLOVENS PLATEAU, REPORTED SPORADIC CONTACTS WITH NORTH ~~VIENTIANE~~-VIETNAMESE UNITS IN THE AREA.
3. A FEW LIGHT CLASHES WERE REPORTED FARTHER NORTH, NEAR SARAVANE, IN THE VICINITY OF MUONG PHALANE IN SOUTH CENTRAL LAOS, AND ON THE PLAIN OF JARS IN NORTH CENTRAL LAOS. GOVERNMENT TROOPS DEPLOYED ABOUT THIRTY KILOMETERS NORTH EAST OF THE ROYAL CAPITAL OF LP HAD AT LEAST ONE LIGHT ENGAGEMENT WITH THE NORTH VIETNAMESE.
4. LAO GOVERNMENT WARPLANES DESTROYED A COMMUNIST SUPPLY BASE NEAR BAN HOUET SAI IN NORTHWESTERN LAOS. THE INFORMATION AS TO THE LOCATION OF BASE WAS GIVEN BY A PATHET LAO SOLDIER WHO RALLIED TO THE GOVERNMENT SIDE ON OCTOBER FIRST.

FROM: BARNES.

(BX)

USIS

PRIORITY

(DTD 6 OCTOBER 71)

1. ONLY SCATTERED SMALL UNIT CLASHES AND SPORADIC ARTILLERY EXCHANGES WERE REPORTED TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY FROM VARIOUS PARTS OF LAOS.
2. THE SHARPEST ENGAGEMENTS TOOK PLACE IN THE SOUTHERN REGION OF LAOS. SOME THIRTY KILOMETERS SOUTHEAST OF PAKSE, WHERE A GOVERNMENT UNIT CLASHED THREE TIMES WITHIN TWENTYFOUR HOURS WITH A MIXED NORTH VIETNAMESE-PATHET ~~LOU~~LAO FORCES.
3. LIGHT CONTACTS WERE REPORTED IN THE VICINITY OF MUONG PHALANE IN SOUTH CENTRAL LAOS, SOME EIGHTY KILOMETERS EAST OF SAVANNAKHET ALONG ROUTE NINE.
4. LAO GOVERNMENT FORCES ON THE PLAIN OF JARS REPORTED SEVERAL SKIRMISHES WITH THE
INCIDENT
NORTH VIETNAMESE. IN ONE IN/GOVERNMENT ARTILLERY FIRED ON TWO NORTH VIETNAMESE TANKS AND TWO TRUCKS MOVING OUT OF KHANG KHAY IN THE NORTHEASTERN PART OF THE PLAIN. IN ANOTHER ACTION, GOVERNMENT ARTILLERY DESTROYED A NORT VIETNAMESE BUNKER, KILLING OR WOUNDING MOST OF THE COMMUNIST SOLDIERS MANNING THE POSITION.

FROM: BARNES.

(SD)

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

ISIS

071905 Oct. 71

USIS

AC'S

P R I O R I T Y

(DTD OCTOBER 07,1971)

1. COMMUNIST SOLDIERS TUESDAY AMBUSHED THREE CIVILIANS ON MOTORCYCLES SOUTH OF SAYABOURY TOWN IN NORTHWESTERN LAOS. ONE CIVILIAN WAS KILLED AND ANOTHER WOUNDED. SURVIVORS SAID THE AMBUSH WAS STAGED BY ABOUT TWENTY PATHET LAO TROOPERS.
2. MILITARY ACTIVITY IN OTHER PARTS OF LAOS CONTINUED AT LOW LEVEL. SEVERAL SKIRMISHES TOOK PLACE ON THE PLAIN OF JARS, IN ONE ENGAGEMENT GOVERNMENT TROOPS REPORTED BEING SHELLED BY TWO NORTH VIETNAMESE TANKS. THE INCIDENT OCCURRED IN THE NORTHEASTERN PART OF THE PLAIN, IN THE SAME AREA WHERE THE TWO TANKS HAD BEEN SIGHTED A DAY EARLIER.
3. GOVERNMENT UNITS NORTHWEST OF THE PLAIN OF JARS REPORTED TWO CONTACTS WITH THE NORTH VIETNAMESE IN THE VICINITY OF MUONG SOUL.
4. IN SOUTHERN LAOS, A FEW CLASHES TOOK PLACE NEAR PAKSONG ON THE BOLOVENS PLATEAU AND IN THE VICINITY OF THE AGRICULTURAL STATION WEST OF PAKSONG ALONG THE ROAD TO PAKSE.

FROM: BARNES.

(PM)

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

USIS

040918 NOV'71

USIS

PLEASE PASS TO AC'S USAID

" PRIORITY "

(DTD 02 NOVEMBER 71).

1. SMALL UNIT SKIRMSHES AND SPORADIC SHELLINGS CONTINUED TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY IN SEVERAL AREAS OF LAOS.
2. AT LEAST FIVE PATROL-SIZE CLASHES WERE REPORTED FROM AN AREA ABOUT THIRTY-FIVE KILOMETERS NORTHEAST OF THE ROYAL CAPITAL OF LUANG PRABANG.
3. ONLY ONE SMALL UNIT ENGAGEMENT TOOK PLACE ON THE PLAIN OF JARS IN NORTH CENTRAL LAOS, WHILE ONE SKIRMISH AND TWO LIGHT SHELLINGS WERE REPORTED FROM THE BOLOVENS PLATEAU IN SOUTHERN LAOS IN THE VICINITY OF PAKSONG.

FROM: BARNES.

(BX)

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

USIS

052005 NOV.71

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PRIORITY

(DTD 05 NOVEMBER 1971)

1. THIRTY-NINE MORE PATHET LAO SOLDIERS RALLIED WEDNESDAY TO THE LAO GOVERNMENT SIDE IN SOUTHERN LAOS.

2. THE THIRTY-NINE WERE LED BY THEIR COMMANDING OFFICER, ~~SAI KHAM PONG~~ CAPTAIN KHAM PONG WHO WAS SENT TO THE SOUTH LESS THAN THREE MONTHS AGO FROM PATHET LAO HEADQUARTERS AT SAM NEUA IN NORTHEASTERN LAOS. CAPTAIN KHAM PONG REPORTED THAT IN SAM NEUA HE SERVED AID-DE-CAMP TO GENERAL SINGAPO, THE DEPUTY COMMANDER OF THE PATHET LAO FORCES.

3. THE RECENT RALLIERS, ONE OF WHOM IS A NURSE, BROUGHT THEIR WEAPONS WITH THEM WHEN THEY REPORTED TO GOVERNMENT TROOPS AT MUONG WAPI, SOME SIXTY KILOMETERS NORTH OF PAKSE.

4. THE LATEST VERIFIED NUMBER OF PATHET LAO SOLDIERS WHO HAVE RALLIED TO THE GOVERNMENT SIDE SINCE LATE MARCH THIS YEAR IN SOUTHERN LAOS ALONE IS NOW EIGHT HUNDRED EIGHTY-FOUR.

5. THE RALLIERS REPORT EVER INCREASING FRICTIONS BETWEEN NORTH VIETNAMESE TROOPS AND PATHET LAO IN THE AREA. ACCORDING TO THE RALLIERS, THE NORTH VIETNAMESE MISTREAT PATHET LAO SOLDIERS AND CIVILIANS ALIKE, AND GENERALLY COMFORT THEMSELVES NOT AS ALLIES BUT AS CONQUERORS. SEVERAL PATHET LAO UNITS WHICH PREVIOUSLY RALLIED TO THE GOVERNMENT HAD TO FIGHT THEIR WAY ~~OUT~~ OUT FROM NORTH VIETNAMESE ENCIRCLEMENT. MANY OF THE RALLIERS VOLUNTEERED IMMEDIATELY TO FIGHT ON THE GOVERNMENT SIDE AGAINST THE NORTH VIETNAMESE INVADERS. RALLIER UNITS FOUGHT IN THE BATTLE TO RECAPTURE PAKSONG ON THE BOLOVENS PLATEAU IN MID SEPTEMBER, AND OTHERS PROVED MOST USEFUL IN LEADING GOVERNMENT FORCES

-30 NORTH VIETNAMESE ARMS AND MUNITIONS CACHES.

6. IN THE MEANTIME, MILITARY ACTIVITIES IN LAOS CONTINUED AT A RELATIVELY LOW LEVELS THOUGH SEVERAL SMALL UNIT SKIRMISHES AND ARTILLERY EXCHANGES WERE REPORTED ON THE PLAIN OF JARS AND IN THE ~~NEARBY~~ NEARBY AREA AROUND MUONG SOU IN NORTH CENTRAL LAOS.

7. FARTHER SOUTH, A GROUP OF VILLAGERS HARVESTING RICE NEAR THE VILLAGE OF BAN NALONG, NORTHWEST OF BORIKHANE, WAS AMBUSHED BY COMMUNIST SOLDIERS, WHO KILLED ONE CIVILIAN ~~IND~~ AND WOUNDED THREE. A GOVERNMENT ESCORT UNIT ENGAGED THE AMBUSHERS, FORCING THEM TO WITHDRAW. THE GOVERNMENT UNIT SUFFERED LIGHT CASUALTIES IN THE FIGHT.

8. TWO LIGHT CONTACTS WERE REPORTED NEAR MUONG PHALANE IN SOUTH CENTRAL LAOS.

9. IN THE SOUTH A FEW CLASHES OCCURRED IN THE AREA BETWEEN SARAVANE AND THE NORTHERN ~~NEARBY~~ RIM OF THE BOLOVENS PLATEAU. IN ONE ACTION, GOVERNMENT TROOPS SURPRISED TEN NORTH VIETNAMESE SOLDIERS PUSHING A DISABLED SOVIET BUILT TRUCK NEAR THE JUNCTION OF ROUTES TWENTY THREE, SIXTEEN, AND ~~TWO~~ TWO HUNDRED THIRTY ONE. AFTER WOUNDING AT LEAST FIVE NORTH VIETNAMESE SOLDIERS, THE GOVERNMENT UNIT CAPTURED THE TRUCK AND FOUND THAT ~~THE~~ THE VEHICLES NEEDED ONLY A BATTERY AND GASOLINE TO BE OPERATIVE.

FROM: BARNES.

SD

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

USIS

270858 Nov. 71

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PASS TO AC'S USAID.

" PRIORITY "

(DTD 26 NOV 71)

1. LAO MILITARY AUTHORITIES ANNOUNCED FRIDAY THAT A CAPTAIN OF THE MEDICAL CORPS OF THE NORTH VIETNAMESE ARMY CAME OVER TO SURRENDER TO LAO TROOPS NEAR SENO, IN SOUTH CENTRAL LAOS, ABOUT THIRTY KILOMETERS NORTHEAST OF SAVANNAKHET. THE FORTY-ONE YEAR OLD ARMY DOCTOR NAMED NGUYEN TINH KHAC SAID THAT OVER THE YEARS HE WAS PROGRESSIVELY BE COMING MORE AND MORE DISENCHANTED WITH THE COMMUNIST REGIME IN NORTH VIETNAM. A VETERAN OF 25 YEAR SERVICE IN THE NORTH VIETNAMESE ARMY, CAPTAIN KHAC'S LAST POST WAS COMMANDER OF THE NORTH VIETNAMESE MILITARY HOSPITAL IN MUONG PHINE ON THE WESTERN EDGE OF THE HO CHI MINH TRAIL, ABOUT ONE HUNDRED FORTY KILOMETERS EAST OF SAVANNAKHET.
2. A NUMBER OF SMALL UNIT CONTACTS AND SPORADIC ARTILLERY AND MORTAR EXCHANGES WERE REPORTED FRIDAY FROM VARIOUS PARTS OF THE KINGDOM OF LAOS.
3. A FEW PATROL SIZE CLASHES TOOK PLACE IN THE AREA OF GOVERNMENT SWEEP OPERATIONS SOME FIFTY KILOMETERS NORTHEAST OF LUANG PRABANG. ONE SHELLING INCIDENT WAS REPORTED IN THE VICINITY OF XIEN LOM NEAR THE BORDER WITH THAILAND, ABOUT ONE HUNDRED FIFTY KILOMETERS WEST OF LUANG PRABANG.
4. SKIRMISHES AND ARTILLERY DUELS CONTINUED ON THE PLAIN OF JARS WITH NO CHANGE IN THE OVERALL SITUATION.
5. ONLY A FEW SCATTERED LIGHT CONTACTS WERE REPORTED FROM SOUTH CENTRAL LAOS.
6. IN THE SOUTH, LAO GOVERNMENT TROOPS OPERATION IN AN AREA ABOUT THIRTY-FIVE KILOMETERS

SOUTHEAST OF SARAVANE, REPORTED A FEW CONTACTS WITH THE NORTH VIETNAMESE AND CAPTURE, AFTER A SHARP ENGAGEMENT, OF A NORTH VIETNAMESE BASE CAMP THAT HAS BEEN USED AS A FIELD HOSPITAL A FEW MEDICAL SUPPLIES ~~WERE~~ WERE FOUND AT THE CAMP, BUT GOVERNMENT TROOPS SEIZED SEVERAL WEAPONS AND OTHER MILITARY EQUIPMENT.

7. ONE CLASH AND ONE SHELLING INCIDENT OCCURRED ON THE BOLOVENS PLATEAU IN THE VICINITY OF PAKSONG.

8. FARTHER SOUTH, A GOVERNMENT UNIT AMBUSHED A PATHET LAO PATROL, CAPTURING THREE COMMUNIST SOLDIERS.

FROM: BARNES.

(PM)

BAN HCUET SAI

VIENTIANE

USIS

271600 NOV'71

USIS

PASS TO AC'S USAID

" PRIORITY "

(DTD 27 NOV'71)

1. LAO GOVERNMENT TROOPS FRIDAY CAPTURED AND SECURED THE TOWN OF THATENG AT THE WESTERN APPROACHES TO THE HO CHI MINH TRAIL, SOME THIRTYFIVE KILOMETERS SOUTH OF SARAVANE, IN SOUTHERN LAOS.
2. THATENG LIES AT THE CROSS-ROADS OF ROUTE TWENTYTHREE, LEADING FROM SARAVANE TO PAKSONG ON THE BOLOVENS PLATEAU, AND ROUTE SIXTEEN, SKIRTING THE EASTERN RIM OF THE PLATEAU. ROUTE SIXTEEN FORMS A PART OF THE HO CHI MINH TRAIL COMPLEX. THATENG WAS OCCUPIED BY THE NORTH VIETNAMESE FOR ALMOST THREE YEARS AND WAS USED BY THEM AS TRANSHIPMENT STATION.
3. THATENG FELL FRIDAY AS THE RESULT OF A SWIFT THRUST BY LAO TROOPS MOVING SOUTHEAST ~~BE TENG~~ FROM SARAVANE. EARLIER IN THE WEEK, LAO GOVERNMENT FORCES HAD OCCUPIED BAN PHONE, ABOUT TWENTY KMS EAST OF THATENG AFTER SEVERAL SHARP ATTACKS AGAINST THE NORTH VIETNAMESE IN THE AREA. THE GOVERNMENT UNITS THEN CONTINUED OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS ^{MEANTIME,} AIMING AT DISRUPTION OF NORTH VIETNAMESE TROOP CONCENTRATIONS. IN THE ~~MEANTIME~~, OTHER LAO TROOPS MOVED AGAINST THATENG AND, AFTER TWO DAYS OF SHARP FIGHTING, FORCED THE NORTH VIETNAMESE TO WITHDRAW FROM THE TOWN.
4. ELSEWHERE IN SOUTHERN LAOS, GOVERNMENT TROOPS CLASHED TWICE WITH NORTH VIETNAMESE FORCES IN THE VICINITY OF PAKSONG ON THE BOLOVENS PLATEAU. IN ONE ENGAGEMENT, NORTH OF PAKSONG, GOVERNMENT ARTILLERY SUPPORTED LAO TROOPS IN THEIR ATTACK ON NORTH VIETNAMESE UNITS.

(BX)

5. IN NORTH CENTRAL LAOS^A/FEW MINOR CONTACTS AND SHELLING INCIDENTS WERE REPORTED IN THE VICINITY OF MUONG SOUI, NORTHWEST OF THE PLAIN OF JARS. THE PLAIN ITSELF WAS RELATIVELY QUIET,, WITH ONLY ONE PATROL CLASH REPORTED.
6. ONE CONTACT, INVOLVING EXCHANGES OF MORTAR FIRE, TOOK PLACE ABOUT FIFTY KMS NORTH OF THE ROYAL CAPITAL OF LP.

FROM: BARNES.

(BX)

USIS

PRIORITY

(DTD DECEMBER 7, 1971)

USIS USINFO DATED 7 DEC IS REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO:

1. NORTH VIETNAMESE TROOPS OF AT LEAST A BATTALION STRENGTH EARLY TUESDAY ATTACKED THE TOWN OF PAKSONG ON THE BOLOVENS PLATEAU IN SOUTHERN LAOS.
2. THE ATTACK, WHICH STARTED SHORTLY AFTER MIDNIGHT, HAS NOT SUCCEEDED IN PENETRATING LAO GOVERNMENT DEFENSES. ACCORDING TO ~~LATEST~~ LATEST REPORTS, THE ~~REA~~ ACTION AROUND PAKSONG CONTINUED.
3. PAKSONG, WHICH HAD FALLEN TO THE NORTH VIETNAMESE IN MID-MAY THIS YEAR, WAS RECAPTURED AFTER HEAVY FIGHTING BY LAO GOVERNMENT TROOP IN MID-SEPTEMBER. THE TOWN WAS FOUND TO BE ALMOST UNDAMAGED AND AT FIRST MANY CIVILIANS RETURNED TO THE WEST, WAS NEVER FULLY SECURE WITH THE NORTH VIETNAMESE OFTEN AMBUSHING AND SHELLING BOTH MILITARY AND CIVILIANS TRAFFIC. IN THE LAST COUPLE OF MONTHS MANY CIVILIANS LEFT PAKSONG, MOVING TO THE PAKSE AREA. THERE ARE FEW CIVILIANS LEFT IN TOWN.
4. MONDAY, LAO GOVERNMENT TROOPS EVACUATED THE TOWN OF SARAVANE NORTH OF THE BOLOVENS PLATEAU ~~AREA~~ AFTER REPULSING EARLIER IN THE DAY SEVERAL STRONG ATTACKS BY AT LEAST TWO NORTH VIETNAMESE BATTALIONS. THERE ARE NO CIVILIANS IN SARAVANE AND THE LAO MILITARY COMMAND ORDERED THE TACTICAL WITHDRAWAL AS THE TOWN IS CONSIDERED OF NO MILITARY VALUE. THE WITHDRAWAL WAS COVERED BY AIR STRIKES.
5. THERE WAS LITTLE MILITARY ACTIVITY REPORTED FROM OTHER REGIONS OF LAOS.

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

USIS

091100 DEC'71

USIS

PASS TO AC'S USAID

"PRIORITY"

(DTD 08 DEC 71)

1. THE MILITARY SITUATION IN LAOS WEDNESDAY REMAINS BASICALLY UNCHANGED.
2. NORTH VIETNAMESE ATTACKS LAUNCHED TUES AGAINST PAKSONG ON THE BOLOVENS PLATAU IN SOUTHERN LAOS SUBSIDE BY THE EVENING OF THE SAME DAY AND ONLY SPORADIC CONTACTS WERE REPORTED FROM THIS AREA. ALL GOVERNMENT POSITIONS AROUND PAKSONG HELD.
3. SEVERAL SMALL UNIT CLASHES TOOK PLACE IN THE VICINITY OF THATENG NORTH OF THE BOLOVENS PLATEAU, WHERE GOVERNMENT FORCES ARE CONDUCTING A SPOILING OPERATION.
4. FARTHER NORTH, THE NORTH VIETNAMESE ARE IN POSSESSION OF THE ABANDONED TOWN OF SARAVANE, EVACUATED BOY GOVERNMENT UNITS MONDAY. NORTH VIETNAMESE TROOPS, APPARENTLY UNAWARE THAT LAO UNITS PULLED OUT OF SARAVANE EARLIER, STORMED THE EMPTY POSITIONS LATE MONDAY AND SUFFERED SEVERE CASUALTIES WHEN THEY WERE CAUGHT IN THE OPEN BY LAO WARPLANES.
5. THE AREA OF THE PLAIN OF JARS REMAINED RELATIVELY CALM WITH ONLY A FEW SHELLING INCIDENTS REPORTED.
6. SEVERAL SMALL UNIT CONTACTS TOOK PLACE SOME 45 KILOMETERS NORTH OF LP AND IN THE VICINITY OF XIENG LOM, DUE EAST OF LP, NEAR THE THAI BORDER.

FROM: BARNES.

(BX)

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

USIS

091800 DEC'71

USIS

PRIORITY

(DTD DEC 9, 1971)

IN

1.THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE AS OF THURSDAY IN THE OVERALL MILITARY SITUATION IN LAOS.

2.SPORADIC SHELLING AND GROUND CONTACTS CONTINUE AROUND PAKSONG, MOSTLY NORTH AND NORTHEAST OF THIS BOLOVENS PLATEAU TOWN IN SOUTHERN LAOS.

3.A FEW SMALL UNIT ENGAGEMENTS WERE REPORTED FROM THE AREA OF THATENG, NORTH OF THE BOLOVENS PLATEAU.

4.A GOVERNMENT UNIT OPERATING SOME FIFTEEN KILOMETERS NORTHWEST OF SARAVANE CLASHED WITH NORTH VIETNAMESE TROOPS IN THE AREA, KILLING TEN NORTH VIETNAMESE SOLDIERS AND DESTROYING TWO OF THEIR HEAVY TRUCKS. GOVERNMENT CASUALTIES WERE VERY LIGHT WITH NO FACILITIES.

5.THE PLAIN OF JARS IN NORTH CENTRAL LAOS WAS RELATIVELY QUIET WITH ONLY ONE PATROL CLASH REPORTED.

6.A FEW SCATTERED SKIRMISHES TOOK PLACE IN THE GENERAL AREA OF XIENG LOM AND HONG SA IN NORTHWESTERN LAOS NEAR THE THAI BORDER AND ABOUT FORTY-FIVE KILOMETERS NORTHEAST OF THE ROYAL CAPITAL OF LUANG PRABANG.

FROM: BARNES.

SD

USIS

PRIORITY

(1)

(DTD DECEMBER 21, 1971)

1. LAO GOVERNMENT FORCES, AFTER BEING PUSHED OFF THE PLAIN OF JARS AT THE END OF A HEAVY THREE-DAY BATTLE, ARE REPORTED TO BE REGROUPING TO FORM NEW DEFENSE POSITIONS SOUTHWEST OF THE PLAIN.
2. THE NORTH VIETNAMESE EARLY SATURDAY ATTACKED LAO GOVERNMENT POSITIONS ON THE PLAIN OF JARS WITH A THREE-PRONGED DRIVE SUPPORTED BY TANKS AND VERY HEAVY ARTILLERY AND MORTAR BARRAGES. LAO MILITARY AUTHORITIES DESCRIBED THE INTENSITY OF NORTH VIETNAMESE FIRE AS THE "HEAVIEST EVER ENCOUNTERED ~~IN~~ IN LAOS." AT THE SAME TIME, THE ATTACKING NORTH VIETNAMESE WERE ~~HEAVILY~~ PROTECTED BY EQUALLY INTENSE ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRE WHICH, TOGETHER WITH UNSEASONALLY INCLEMENT WEATHER, HAMPERED AIR OPERATIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT SIDE.
3. THE LOSSES ON BOTH SIDES ARE SAID TO BE HEAVY, BUT NO FIGURES ARE AVAILABLE. LAO TROOPS, BEFORE BEING FORCES OUT FROM THEIR POSITIONS ON THE PLAIN OF JARS, INFLICTED SERIOUS CASUALTIES ON THE ATTACKERS. AT SEVERAL DEFENSE POSITIONS LITERALLY HUNDREDS OF NORTH VIETNAMESE BODIES WERE SEEN IN THE BARBED WIRE ENTANGLEMENTS.
4. BY MONDAY NIGHT ALL GOVERNMENT POSITIONS ON THE PLAIN WERE LOST, INCLUDING ALL ARTILLERY BASES.
5. IN THEIR OFFENSIVE, THE NORTH VIETNAMESE USED NOT ONLY HIGHLY INTENSE FIRE, BUT ALSO LARGE NUMBER OF GROUP TROOPS ASSAULTING LAO POSITIONS IN WAVE AFTER WAVE.