

T85-218 POSS 0233

SOURCE STATED THAT SOMETIME DURING EARLY 1967 (COULDN'T REMEMBER MONTH BUT DURING THE RAINY SEASON) WHILE UNDERGOING MILITARY TRAINING IN BAN DOK VILLAGE XIANG KHOUANG PROVINCE HE OBSERVED THE SHOOTDOWN OF A U.S. JET TYPE AIRCRAFT WHICH CADRE SAID WAS A MODEL "FCH" (C PRONOUNCED IN LAO EQUATES TO 4). SOURCE STATED THAT HE FIRST SAW TWO SIMILAR AIRCRAFT ARRIVE IN THE AREA AT APPROX 0800 HOURS AND THAT ONE OF THE AIRCRAFT DIVED DOWN TO ATTACK A PAVN MILITARY CAMP NEXT TO BAN PEN VILLAGE MUANG SOU (TG 7950). THE AIRCRAFT WAS HIT BY PAVN ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRED FROM A BATTERY OF SIX GUNS WHILE ON ITS SECOND PASS AT THE TARGET DURING A BREAK IN THE OVERCAST WEATHER. WHEN THE AIRCRAFT WAS HIT SOURCE DID NOT SEE ANY SMOKE OR FIRE BUT SAW THE AIRCRAFT NOSE DOWN AND CRASH ABOUT ONE KILOMETER FROM BAN PEN AND ABOUT FOUR KILOMETERS FROM BAN ANG (TG 9066).

PRIOR TO THE CRASH SOURCE SAW THE PILOT EJECT AND DESCEND UNDER A FULLY DEPLOYED GREEN COLORED PARACHUTE NEAR BAN PEN VILLAGE AND ABOUT ONE KILOMETER FROM WHERE THE AIRCRAFT CRASHED. SHORTLY AFTER THE PILOT DESCENDED THE SECOND AIRCRAFT BEGAN FLYING AROUND

THE AREA WHERE THE PARACHUTE DESCENDED AND THEN A FEW MINUTES LATER DEPARTED TO THE WEST. SINCE BOTH AIRCRAFT HAD ARRIVED FROM THE WEST SOURCE SPECULATED THAT THE SECOND AIRCRAFT RETURNED TO A BASE IN THAILAND.

SOURCE STATED THAT AFTER THE PILOT LANDED HE AND OTHER MEMBERS OF HIS TRAINING UNIT WENT TO BAN PEN WHERE PAVN TROOPS HAD BROUGHT THE PILOT. SOURCE DESCRIBED THE PILOT AS MALE CAUCASIAN, ABOUT 1.8 METERS TALL, BROWN HAIR, AND ABOUT 28 YOA. SOURCE RECALLED THAT THE PILOT WAS WEARING A ONE-PIECE PILOT'S UNIFORM WHICH WAS LIGHT BROWN KHAKI COLORED, AND A PILOT'S HELMET. THE PILOT DID NOT APPEAR TO BE WOUNDED OR INJURED. PAVN TROOPS GUARDING THE PILOT TOLD SOURCE THAT THE PILOT WAS A CPT IN THE USAF. SOURCE STATED THAT THE PILOT WAS HELD IN THE FOREST NEAR BAN PEN UNTIL THE FOLLOWING DAY WHEN PAVN TROOPS TOOK HIM AWAY IN A TRUCK IN THE DIRECTION OF VIETNAM. A FEW DAYS LATER THE PAVN TROOPS LOADED THE WRECKAGE OF THE AIRCRAFT ON SIX TRUCKS AND HAULED IT AWAY, ALSO IN THE DIRECTION OF VIETNAM ACCORDING TO SOURCE.

SOURCE HEARD FROM THE PAVN TROOPS THAT THEY HAD SURROUNDED THE PILOT APPROX 30 MINUTES AFTER HE LANDED AND THAT HE DID NOT ATTEMPT TO RESIST. SOURCE WAS NOT ABLE TO PROVIDE FURTHER INFORMATION CONCERNING THE ALLEGED AMERICAN PILOT CAPTURED NEAR BAN PEN (V), TASSENG SOUY (CANTON), MUANG PET (D), XIANG KHOUANG (P).

COMMENT: BAN PEN COULD NOT BE LOCATED IN THE MUANG SOU AREA. SOURCE DECLINED THE INTERVIEWER'S REQUEST FOR A SKETCH AND CLAIMED THAT HE COULD NOT DRAW WELL. SOURCE DID RECALL THAT BAN PEN WAS APPROX FOUR KILOMETERS FROM A VILLAGE CALLED BAN ANG (POSS LOCATED VIC TG 8965). THE VILLAGE (BAN PEN) TO WHICH SOURCE IS REFERRING MAY POSSIBLY DERIVE ITS NAME FROM THE NAM PEN RIVER (TG 9763).