

VZCZCBTO208
 PP RUEHBT
 DE RUHQSGG #7099 2452000
 ZNR UUUUU
 P 022000Z SEP 93 ZYB
 FM CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI
 TO RUHQHQB/USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI
 INFO RUMTFS/AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
 RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC//USDP:RSA//
 RUEHBT/CJTFFA DET ONE BANGKOK TH
 RUEHBT/USDAO BANGKOK TH//POW-MIA//
 RUHVAAA/CDRUSACILHI HICKAM AFB HI//TAPC-PED-H//
 RUHQHQI/CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI
 BT
 UNCLAS//NO3460//
 SECTION 01 OF 05
 SUBJ: TALKING POINTS FOR POW/MIA CONSULTATIVE MEETING IN
 VIENTIANE, 16-17 SEP 93//
 RMKS/1. ORIG PROPOSES FOLLOWING TALKING POINTS FOR 16-17 SEP 93
 POW/MIA CONSULTATIVE MEETING IN VIENTIANE. ANTICIPATE AMBASSADOR
 WILKINSON WILL LEAD U.S. SIDE AND PRESENT OPENING REMARKS. JTF-
 FA WILL REVISE TALKING POINTS TO REFLECT DEVELOPMENTS SUBSEQUENT
 TO RELEASE OF THIS MESSAGE. TO ASSIST IN REVISING THE FINAL
 SCRIPT, REQUEST REVIEWING AGENCIES CLEARLY DENOTE CHANGES. SINCE

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 NEGOTIATIONS TEAM WILL LEAVE HAWAII 12 SEP 93, REQUEST POLICY
 CONCURRENCE NLT 10 SEP 93.

2. PROPOSED TALKING POINTS FOLLOW:

A. MR. DONE AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE LAO DELEGATION, WE ARE PLEASED TO DISCUSS WITH YOU AGAIN OUR JOINT EFFORTS TO RESOLVE THE FATE OF AMERICANS MISSING IN LAOS. BEFORE PROCEEDING, WE WOULD FIRST LIKE TO RECOGNIZE MAJOR SIKHAI. HIS PROFESSIONALISM AND COOPERATIVE SPIRIT DURING HIS FIRST JOINT FIELD ACTIVITY MADE HIM A WELCOME ADDITION, AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH HIM IN THE FUTURE. WE ARE ALSO GLAD THAT CAPTAIN ONCHANH RECOVERED FROM HIS MALARIA. FINALLY, WE APPRECIATE YOUR RAPID RESPONSE IN CLEARING THE MEDICAL EVACUATION OVERFLIGHT WHICH ORIGINATED FROM VIETNAM 23 AUGUST 1993.

B. SECONDLY, AS YOU ARE AWARE, PRESIDENT CLINTON IS DETERMINED TO ENSURE THE FULLEST POSSIBLE ACCOUNTING FOR OUR POW/MIA'S. IN HIS JULY 2 STATEMENT, THE PRESIDENT SPECIFIED TO VIETNAM FOUR AREAS WHICH MEASURE TANGIBLE PROGRESS ON POW/MIA ACCOUNTING, TRILATERAL COOPERATION IS ONE OF THOSE AREAS, AND DURING OUR MEETINGS IN HAWAII LAST AUGUST WE DISCUSSED THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS ISSUE TO LAO - U.S. RELATIONS. WE HOPE YOU

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 WILL APPROACH PLANNING FOR THE TRILATERAL OPERATION POSITIVELY.

C. SPEAKING FRANKLY, WE MUST IMPROVE THE RESULTS OF OUR ACTIVITIES IN LAOS TO KEEP PACE WITH DEVELOPMENTS IN VIETNAM.

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ADMITTEDLY, AS YOU HAVE NOTED, COMPARISONS TO OTHER COUNTRIES MAY NOT ACCURATELY TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION ALL FACTORS. HOWEVER, FAIR OR NOT, THE NEXT OF KIN, THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AND CONGRESS DO MAKE SUCH COMPARISONS. THAT IS WHY WE MUST AGREE NOW ON THE FISCAL YEAR 94 SCHEDULE AS SUBMITTED TO YOU IN JULY.

D. AS A REVIEW, WE WILL SUMMARIZE THE RESULTS OF OUR FY 93 ACTIVITIES. (YOU RECALL THAT OUR FISCAL YEAR RUNS FROM THE FIRST OF OCTOBER THROUGH THE END OF SEPTEMBER, AND REFERS TO OUR GOVERNMENT'S BUDGET PLANNING PROCESS.) OUR JOINT TEAMS COMPLETED SIX JOINT FIELD ACTIVITIES IN FIVE PROVINCES. THEY INVESTIGATED 90 CASES AND EXCAVATED 11 SITES. EXCAVATION TEAMS RECOVERED REMAINS FROM SIX SITES. THESE REMAINS ARE CURRENTLY UNDER ANALYSIS AT THE CENTRAL IDENTIFICATION LABORATORY, AND WE WILL DISCUSS OUR ANALYSIS IN GREATER DETAIL LATER. THIS FOLDER CONTAINS A SUMMARY OF THE FIELD ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED DURING THE FY 93.

E. SEVERAL NOTEWORTHY DEVELOPMENTS TOOK PLACE DURING FY 93.

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(1) FIRST, IN OCTOBER 1992, WE CONDUCTED OPERATIONS IN TWO PROVINCES FOR OVER 25 DAYS, THE FIRST TIME IN OUR HISTORY OF JOINT FIELD ACTIVITIES WE HAD TEAMS DEPLOY SIMULTANEOUSLY IN TWO PROVINCES. THIS WAS ALSO THE LONGEST FIELD OPERATION WE EVER CONDUCTED.

(2) IN JANUARY 1993, OUR EFFORT EXPANDED TO THREE TEAMS OPERATING SIMULTANEOUSLY IN XEKONG AND ATTAPU PROVINCES. YOUR GOVERNMENT ALSO ALLOWED A TEAM TO CONDUCT AN UNSCHEDULED SURVEY OF A CRASH SITE IN KHAMMOUAN PROVINCE, OVER 200 KILOMETERS TO THE NORTH.

(3) SIMILARLY, IN JANUARY 1993, VICE MINISTER SOUBANH PERSONALLY PARTICIPATED IN THE ADVANCE COORDINATION MEETINGS WITH PROVINCIAL OFFICIALS TO UNDERScore THE IMPORTANCE OF PRIOR PREPARATIONS.

(4) FINALLY, DURING THE MAY AND JULY-AUGUST JOINT FIELD ACTIVITIES, YOU APPROVED SITE EXCAVATION, WHICH WERE NOT LISTED ON THE SCHEDULED WORK PLAN. WE APPRECIATE THIS FLEXIBILITY.

(5) ON THE OTHER HAND, THE DELAY IN STARTING THE LAST TWO JOINT FIELD ACTIVITIES SIGNIFICANTLY HINDERED OUR ABILITY TO FORECAST MISSION REQUIREMENTS.

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F. WE APPRECIATE THE VERY POSITIVE STEPS YOUR GOVERNMENT TOOK TO INCREASE EFFECTIVE POW/MIA COOPERATION OVER THE PAST YEAR. HOWEVER, AS WE STATED EARLIER, THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, THE U.S. CONGRESS, AND THE PRESIDENT EXPECT MORE. WITH YOUR HELP, WE KNOW WE CAN ACHIEVE IT. BY EXPANDING OUR COOPERATION ON THIS HUMANITARIAN ISSUE, WE HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO FURTHER BOTH OUR GOVERNMENTS' OBJECTIVES AS WE WORK TOWARD CONTINUING IMPROVEMENT IN OUR RELATIONS. WE HOPE THAT AS WE EXPAND OUR JOINT EFFORTS, CLOSER RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES WILL RESULT, THUS BENEFITING BOTH THE LAO AND AMERICAN PEOPLE.

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G. THIS FOLDER CONTAINS OUR 1994 SCHEDULE WHICH WAS FORMALLY PROVIDED TO YOU IN JULY. AS WE DISCUSSED IN HAWAII WITH VICE MINISTER SOUBANH, WE WOULD LIKE APPROVAL TO CONDUCT SIX JOINT FIELD ACTIVITIES, THE SAME NUMBER AS LAST YEAR, AND TO EMPLOY FOUR TEAMS (TWO INVESTIGATION AND TWO RECOVERY) COMPOSED OF 45 U.S. PERSONNEL, IN TWO OR MORE PROVINCES SIMULTANEOUSLY. TO SUPPORT THIS PLAN, WE PROPOSE TO COORDINATE ALL OPERATIONAL AND LOGISTICAL DETAILS WITH THE MINISTRIES, PROVINCES, AND DISTRICTS BEFORE STARTING THE JFA'S. WE ALSO REQUEST CLEARANCE FOR THE TEAM TO STAY IN THE FIELD UP TO 30 DAYS TO ALLOW FOR ANY

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UNFORESEEN CONTINGENCIES AND ENSURE COMPLETION OF ALL PLANNED ACTIVITIES. SINCE THE INCREASED PACE OF OPERATIONS WILL INCUR ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS, WE RECOMMEND YOU INCREASE YOUR POW/MIA TEAM TO 10 PERSONNEL; WE WILL FUND THE ADDITIONAL EXPENSES. INCIDENTALLY, CAN YOU UPDATE US ON THE STATUS OF REPLACING MR. LATTANA? THIS IS THE THIRD MONTH WE PAID FOR EIGHT LAO TEAM MEMBERS. IF YOU HAVE NOT FOUND A SUITABLE REPLACEMENT, WE SHOULD ADJUST OUR PAYMENTS ACCORDINGLY. WE ALSO REQUEST YOU LIFT THE LIMIT ON LAO-AMERICAN LINGUISTS TO SUPPORT THE INCREASED WORKLOAD.

(1) DURING DISCUSSIONS IN HAWAII, VICE MINISTER SOUBANH REPEATEDLY EMPHASIZED THE NEED TO CONDUCT LONG-TERM ADVANCE OPERATIONAL AND LOGISTICAL PLANNING AND COORDINATION. WE UNDERSTAND HE ALSO EMPHASIZED THIS POINT DURING THE PROVINCIAL AND DISTRICT OFFICIALS MEETING. FIELD EXPERIENCE ALSO DEMONSTRATES THE IMPORTANCE OF PRIOR PLANNING AND COORDINATION TO THE SUCCESSFUL ACCOMPLISHMENT OF OUR JOINT OPERATIONS. DURING THE LAST JOINT FIELD ACTIVITY, WE ENCOUNTERED SOME DIFFICULTIES WHICH MORE COMPREHENSIVE AND MORE TIMELY ADVANCE PREPARATION COULD HAVE FORESTALLED. THAT IS THE REASON WE ARE PRESSING FOR
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