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MEMO

TO: TED SAMPLEY

FR: JOHN LeBOUTILLIER

TED, I HAVE RECEIVED YOUR FAXED QUESTIONS ABOUT HENDON'S SITUATION IN BANGKOK AND THE EXPECTED RESPONSE BY WASHINGTON AND HANOI.

HERE IS WHAT I KNOW:

1) HENDON ARRIVED SHORTLY AFTER NEW YEAR'S IN THAILAND AND IMMEDIATELY WENT TO THE MEKONG RIVER. HE TOOK WITH HIM A MAN WHO HAD KNOWLEDGE OF LIVING POW'S IN LAOS.

2) WORKING WITH THIS LAO, BILLY GATHERED INTEL ON LIVING POW'S HELD IN LAOS.

3) APPARENTLY HE ACQUIRED HARD INFO ON LIVING POW'S IN LAOS, BUT IN VIETNAM INSTEAD.

4) ONCE CERTAIN THAT THIS INFORMATION WAS THE KEY TO BREAKING OPEN THE POW ISSUE, HENDON QUIETLY APPLIED IN BANGKOK FOR A VISA TO VIETNAM. THE VIETNAMESE IMMEDIATELY REJECTED HIS REQUEST.

5) IT WAS AT THAT POINT THAT HENDON WENT PUBLIC BY ASKING OUR AMBASSADOR TO THAILAND, DAVID LAMBERTSON (WHO IS SECRETLY A CIA MAN, BY THE WAY), TO HELP HIM GET INTO VIETNAM.

6) HANOI AND WASHINGTON BOTH KNOW THAT HENDON'S STRENGTH IS AS A CASE-BY-CASE ANALYST OF POW INFORMATION. BOTH GOVERNMENTS ARE AFRAID OF HENDON'S KNOWLEDGE. THEY WILL CONSPIRE TO KEEP OUR OR, IF THEY ALLOW HIM INTO VIETNAM, THEY WILL HAVE MOVED POW'S BY THEM.

7) HENDON FIRST TRIED FOR A VISA IN MID-FEBRUARY. IT IS NOW 15-20 DAYS LATER. YOU CAN BET THAT BY NOW HANOI HAS DONE ALL IT CAN TO FIGURE OUT WHICH POW LOCATION HENDON IS ON TO. THE PRISONERS WILL NOT BE THERE IF AND WHEN HENDON AND HIS GROUP ARE ALLOWED INTO VIETNAM.

8) IT IS POSSIBLE THAT HANOI AND WASHINGTON WILL TAKE HENDON TO THAT LOCATION - WITH PRESS - TO EMBARRASS HIM AND SHOW THEIR "WONDERFUL COOPERATION".

9) WE IN THE POW MOVEMENT NEED TO BE UNITED ON THIS INTERKINE WARFARE. SUCH AS MARK SMITH'S LETTER, ONLY SERVING TO DIVIDE OUR MOVEMENT AT A TIME WHEN WE NEED TO KEEP THE HEAT ON HANOI AND WASHINGTON.

Sincerely, John