

Jerry DeBruin

**A Message Of Action To Representatives Of The United
States Government Relative To The Case Of
Eugene Henry DeBruin**

Goal:

To obtain the release of Eugene Henry DeBruin, an acknowledged Pathet Lao prisoner in Laos or obtain verifiable remains of Eugene Henry DeBruin certified by forensic specialists whose credentials are acceptable to members of the DeBruin Family.

Precondition:

To exhaust all possibilities in obtaining a Verifiable Accounting of Eugene Henry DeBruin's activity in Laos and Vietnam including his work, imprisonment, escapes, recaptures and determination of his current fate and whereabouts. The steps followed to reach this Verifiable Accounting are to be clearly delineated and subsequently articulated to members of the DeBruin Family, to the degree of mutual satisfaction of all concerned parties.

Precondition:

That all agencies in the U.S. Government including the U.S. Senate Select Committee, pool their best possible information and resources concerning Eugene Henry DeBruin and present the best case using such information and resources to both the Lao and Vietnamese governments in future meetings. The U.S. Government must hold both the Lao and Vietnamese governments accountable for the attainment of the goal outlined above before full normalization of relations between the U.S. and Lao government and the U.S. and Vietnamese government occurs.

Precondition:

To obtain the best possible information and resources relative to Eugene Henry DeBruin, it is requested that the U.S. Government be committed to a maximum effort discussed with and approved by members of the DeBruin Family (not done in secret) to pursue every live sighting report as far as humanly possible such as those reported in all villages in Tassaeng Ta-a (sub district) of Muang Nong (district) of Khoueng Savannakhet (province) and Houei Het in Khammouane Province. Previously, because of the political situation in Laos, it may not have been possible to investigate each live sighting. Currently, however, with improved relations and the Lao's obtaining of official recognition, this is a reality and is now doable. Subsequently, the U.S. Government's commitment to a maximum effort should include the immediate release of all records pertaining to Eugene Henry DeBruin, e.g., live sightings, etc., with minimum censoring, to members of the DeBruin family and the assignment of an investigator, with full cooperation of the Lao government, to fully investigate these live sightings/reports on the ground in Laos.

Precondition:

To obtain the best possible information and resources relative to Eugene Henry DeBruin, the U.S. Government should also pressure officials from various countries who represented a number of agencies in Laos, i.e., ICC, both during and after the war. Representatives from the U.S. Government should make direct inquiries with proper officials from the following governments: Canada, USSR (CIS), China, Great Britain, Poland and India and seek the cooperation of these governments in questioning the Lao and Vietnamese about the fate of Eugene Henry DeBruin. With improved relations in Laos and Vietnam the Lao and Vietnamese may be more willing to share information on Eugene Henry DeBruin with representatives from these countries who could subsequently report such information to representatives of the U.S. Government.

Plan of Action:

- (1) After 29+ years (5 September 1963 - 30 November 1992), it is time for all U.S. governmental agencies including the U.S. Senate Select Committee to pool the best possible information and resources that they have relative to Eugene Henry DeBruin. These materials should be used to confront, and present, the strongest possible case to the Lao and Vietnamese in future visits to both Laos and Vietnam, respectfully.
- (2) Conduct visits to Houei Het (Khammouane province) and villages in Muong Nong (district) of Khoueng Savannakhet (province) carrying pictures and translations (enclosed in plastic) of Eugene Henry DeBruin et al. Elderly villagers need to continue to be queried relative to the fate and whereabouts of these men.
- (3) Conduct a visit to Ban-Ta-a, Tassaeng Ta-a in response to the live sighting of Eugene Henry DeBruin as depicted in message Bangkok Th 31200 dtg 281106 Z JUN 91. A medcap should accompany the team to treat villagers and seek their cooperation in pursuing this lead.
- (4) Conduct a visit to a similar village at XD 6111 in the vicinity of Muang Nong in response to the live sighting of Eugene Henry DeBruin as depicted in message JCRC RPT T91-167 dtg 221125Z May 91. A medcap should accompany the team to treat villagers and seek their cooperation in pursuing this lead.
- (5) Establish the identity of Father John as depicted in Bangkok TH 31200 dtg 281106Z JUNE 91 and JCRC RPT T91-161 dtg 221125Z MAY 91. Interview Father John and obtain an indepth report on Fr. John's activity relative to the case of Eugene Henry DeBruin.
- (6) Seek the release of all other documents related to the case of Eugene Henry DeBruin, in particular those documents related to messages Bangkok TH 31200 dtg 281106Z JUN 91 and JCRC RPT T91-167 dtg 221125Z May 91 and obtain a documented report as to why these documents were not revealed soon after they were received and subsequent attempts, if any, to visit Tassaeng Ta-a to follow-up on the veracity of these reports.
- (7) Expand the excavation of the alleged burial site near Ban Vangthakhoay (UTM 48Q XD12818026-N 17 0' 18"/E 106 3' 36"). Develop a numbering system that

differentiates site numbers from case numbers. This site is labeled "REFNO 0018. The DeBruin Case." In actuality, REFNO 0018 has nothing to do with the DeBruin case unless, by a thorough excavation, verifiable, incontrovertible evidence is found that proves Eugene Henry DeBruin is buried there. Thus, sites should be assigned numbers different from case numbers. Subsequently, site numbers could then be matched with the case number only if verifiable, incontrovertible evidence is found that proves the existence of a person being buried there.

- (8) Expand the investigation and interrogation of witnesses who allegedly buried an American at a site near Ban Vangthakhoay. Show photographs, such as the 1964 Ban Tha Pa Chon photo of Eugene Henry DeBruin, Phisit Indradat (Intharathat), Prasit Promsuwan, Prasit Thanee, and Y.C. To and individual head shot photos of these same five men (obtained from Air America files housed in Security Storage in Washington, D.C.) to the primary witnesses who were involved in the burial of the alleged American near Ban Vangthakhoay. Attempt to discern whether Prasit Thanee, Prasit Promsuwan and/or Y.C. To were involved in the "wood chopping" incident. It is known through JCRC RPT T88-665 that Prasit Promsuwan, (a participant in the 1966 escape), a "few years ago prior to 1972 had come floating down the stream which flowed through the Lao Theung Village." Witnesses need to be queried as to whether they recall Thai Prasit Promsuwan floating down the Nam Kok stream at the time of the "wood chopping" incident and of his possible involvement in such incident. In addition, it is requested that copies of 11 photos taken of the alleged burial site also be released as per Stony Beach Bangkok Th 30831 report.
- (9) Expand the investigation of the current fate and whereabouts of the 8 airmen involved in a crash 4 kilometers south of Ban Vangthakhoay where the "wood chopping" incident occurred. The Lao witnesses involved in the "wood chopping" incident and alleged subsequent burial need to be shown photographs of each of these eight men to discern whether any of these 8 men were involved in the "wood chopping" incident. These 8 men were shot down in an AC-47 aircraft on 15 May 1966 4 kilometers south of the "wood chopping" incident and two months prior to the "wood chopping" incident. Photos of the 8 men should be obtained from DOD files for this investigation which should include all Lao witnesses to the "wood chopping" incident and alleged subsequent burial. One version of a report describes the dead man as wearing a blue shirt and trousers. The possibility exists that the dead man was a member of the Air Force wearing an Air Force one piece flight suit. In any event, it is difficult to discern how someone could identify a man in a photograph when he saw the man 26 years ago, for only the amount of time it took to move and bury the body, where half of the face of the man was mutilated. In addition the person chopping wood may be a Caucasian rather than the person standing guard. The Hong Kong Chinese, Y.C. To, a member of the Air America crew, was very ill at the time of the escape two months prior to the "wood chopping" incident and perhaps was not well enough to travel the distance (29 km) from the site of the escape to the site of the alleged "wood chopping" incident and was perhaps too weak to chop wood.
- (10) Contact the CIA for individual photographs of Eugene Henry DeBruin, Prasit Promsuwan, Prasit Thanee, Phisit Indradat (Intharathat) and Y.C. To to be shown to witnesses of the alleged "wood chopping" incident and alleged subsequent burial near Ban Vangthakhoay. (These photographs and other Air America records may be housed at Security Storage in Washington, D.C.)

- (11) Contact the CIA for copies of passports, U.S. and foreign pilot's licenses, Air America Vientiane Airport Passes, radio operator's licenses, Air America Identification cards, Geneva Convention cards, Blood chits, and complete records for the following Air America employees: Eugene Henry DeBruin, Prasit Promsuwan, Prasit Thanee, Phisit Indradat (Intharathat), Y.C. To, Charles G. Herrick and Joseph C. Cheney. Coordinate efforts with the CIA to discern actions taken by the CIA to determine the current fate and whereabouts of these men, all Air America employees, and their families. In addition, the card bearing the name "Eugene Henry DeBruin" that surfaced via a Lao-Philipino mechanic (AA) and Air America pilot during the flood in Vientiane in 1966 needs to be identified and released.
- (12) Contact the DIA and request the 16 October 1991 "deteriorated" film that contains identification cards for Air America employees Mr. Charles C. Herrick, Mr. Prasit Promsuwan and Mr. Joseph C. Cheney II. Request that all still photographs made from this "deteriorated" film, in addition to 17 still photos released on 16 October 1991, be made available. Request the release of photos of Eugene Henry DeBruin, Phisit Indradat (Intharathat) Prasit Thanee and Y.C. To; other Air America employees involved in the 1966 escape but whose photos and identification cards, if any, were NOT included in the release of these materials on 16 October 1991.
- (13) Contact the CIA to obtain a "headshot" precapture photograph of Air America employee Y.C. To to be compared, using forensic analysis, with alleged photograph taken of Y.C. To in 1989.
- (14) Contact the DIA and request a copy of the complete written DIA analysis of the 1989 Y.C. To photo, e.g, who made the analysis and the final outcome of the analysis.
- (15) Request a written report from DIA (Warren Gray) that includes a written statement from Jack Bailey that says the 1989 photo of Y.C. To was indeed a fake or hoax.
- (16) Request full disclosure of a 3-person DIA meeting in July 1992 in Vientiane, Laos with a long time French resident. Results of this meeting need to be disclosed as pertinent information relative to Eugene Henry DeBruin was disclosed.
- (17) Request that contact be made with the British Embassy in Hong Kong and in Taipei to press the Lao government for information on Y.C. To.
- (18) Request that contact be made with the Thai government in Bangkok to press the Lao government for information on Thais Prasit Promsuwan and Prasit Thanee.
- (19) Request contact be made with the Government of Canada to obtain a copy of their copy of a Pathet Lao publication entitled "Le Lutte Du Peuple Lao, Contre L' Agression Des Imperialists Americains," February 1965 in which Eugene Henry DeBruin allegedly signed a written statement to Prince Souphanouvong that outlines his, DeBruin's, activities in Laos. Ong Lui (Luy), depicted further in point #21 below, witnessed such signing after he conducted a brutal interrogation of Eugene Henry DeBruin in 1964.
- (20) Request a copy of the 750 page debriefing entitled "Imprisonment and Escape of LTJG Dieter Dengler, USN" for analysis of imprisonment with Eugene Henry

DeBruin and subsequent interrogation conducted by Ong Lui (Luy). If necessary, request permission from Dengler to release the debriefing.

- (21) Request an indepth meeting with the representatives of both Lao and Vietnamese governments regarding the activities of Ong Lui (Luy) related to record keeping, treatment and interrogation of the five members of the Air America crew and his possible involvement with the AC-47 crew reported missing on 15 May 1966 four kilometers south of Ban Vanghakhoay. Detailed analyses over the years shows that the one-half Vietnamese-French Ong Lui (Luy) had frequent contact with the Air America crew and its members. Request that Ong Lui (Luy) be contacted immediately through the Lao and Vietnamese governments to request information, possibly through monthly Binh Tram reports and intercepts, on the Air America crew et al. Ong Lui (Luy) was responsible for the following verifiable activities regarding the Air America crew:
- (a) He took the Ban Tha Pa Chon 1964 photo of the five member Air America crew. Documentation: see My Life... For Freedom by Phisit Indradat (Intharathat) pps.1 and 2. (LN 337-92) Phisit was a member of the group that escaped in 1966 with Eugene Henry DeBruin et al. and subsequently reached safety. Phisit currently lives in Bangkok and should be interviewed for further elaboration of his knowledge of activities conducted by Ong Lui (Luy).
 - (b) Ong Lui (Luy) was also responsible for the later interrogation of the Air America crew (1964) and Phisit respectively (1967). For a description of Ong Lui (Luy) see My Life... For Freedom by Phisit Indradat (Intharathat) pps. 27-29 (LN 337-92).
 - (c) Ong Lui (Luy) later appeared in January 1968 when he took Eugene Henry DeBruin and 8 other Americans "northward" from Muang Nong Village (XD 6010). See CIA "Memorandum for the Record." Request that attempts be made to discern whether the 8 Americans were the same Americans shot down 4 kilometers south of Ban Vangthakhoay (the alleged burial site) on 15 May 1966.

Request that the Lao and Vietnamese governments surface Ong Lui (Luy) at which time he could be shown the Ban Tha Pa Chon photo that he took of the 5 Air America crewmembers.. Request that Ong Lui (Luy) be queried on his activities related to the Air America crew and the AC-47 crew of 8 including any information that he has relative to the current fate and whereabouts these men. As some former POWS have returned to meet their past interrogators, the epitome in this case would be to have Phisit Indradat (Intharathat) in Bangkok and Dieter Dengler in the U.S. have a face to face meeting with Ong Lui (Luy) to learn the fate and whereabouts of Eugene Henry DeBruin, Prasit Promsuwan, Prasit Thanee and Y.C. To et al. By analyzing the pattern of Ong Lui's (Luy's) activities over time, he is indeed a key figure in determining the fate of the Air America crew et al. and thus should be pressed hard for information on such activities.

- (22) Request information such as intercepts from the Lao and Vietnamese governments relative to the activity of Group #559 in Military Region IV and the relationship Group #559 had with the Air America prisoners. Members of Group #559 in Military Region IV operated in the area where the five AA prisoners were held and may have information about these men as a result of their activities in Laos. Group #559, the NVA Logistics Command, possibly contained Ong Lui (Luy). Its activities

include the following: Group #559 was the designation for the NVA Logistics Command. The name comes from it having been formed in May 1959. This Logistics Command was responsible for subordinate units called Binh Trams. The Binh Trams were numbered BT 38, BT 35, etc. Each Binh Tram was responsible for an area of at least 40-50 miles of the Ho Chi Minh Trail and perhaps as much as 100 miles. As men and supplies travelled down the Ho Chi Minh Trail to South Vietnam, or back up the Ho Chi Minh Trail to North Vietnam, they would pass through the zone of the trail for which the BT was responsible. The Binh Tram maintained the Trail and facilitated NVA travel along the Trail. Group #559, which may have included Ong Lui (Luy), had command and control over the Binh Trams from the Lao/North Vietnam border to the Lao/South Vietnam border. Another Group controlled the zone in North Vietnam and a third controlled the zone in South Vietnam. Later in the war, perhaps in 1965, a second Group was formed to divide responsibility with Group #559 in its zone. A major effort was made to collect information on what was moving along the Trail. The Binh Trams used Soviet WWII era radio equipment to pass their monthly reports from BT to BT all the way to Hanoi. The U.S. Government agency responsible for intercepting these communications worked in Vietnam and collected these reports. If the BT's were also responsible for handling the travel of American POWs, and they would, there might be information about the American POWs in the BT reports to their Group Headquarters and then sent on to Hanoi. It is requested that the U.S. Agency responsible for monitoring the Binh Tram reports be strongly encouraged to analyze and release the intercepts of these reports. In turn, it is also requested that the Vietnamese give full access to the actual monthly Binh Tram reports held in archives in Hanoi and around the country. By conducting a thorough search of the archives for material on Group #559, there might be reports by or about Ong Lui (Luy) and Eugene Henry DeBruin et al. One expects that the reports did not particularly mention POWs. However, if one analyzed the material especially in relation to the dates surrounding aircraft downings, one might decipher NVA code words that might indicate how they referred to POWs. Thus, members of the U.S. government agency responsible for analyzing the material for mention of POWs, should strongly consider the possible link between Ong Lui (Luy) and the Air America crew in these reports. If that is not possible, the Vietnamese need to be pressed hard now to surface Ong Lui (Luy) especially in reference to his activity with Group #559 and the Air America crew. It is hoped that the Vietnamese will provide information on Eugene Henry DeBruin et al. via these significant, monthly Binh Tram reports.

- (23) Request information from the Vietnamese Government relative to the activity of NVA Divisions 301, 312 and 316 operating in Laos during the war and whether Ong Lui or any other member of these divisions had any contact with members of the Air America crew.
- (24) Conduct a thorough search for, and/or ask, representatives of the Lao and Vietnamese governments about the current whereabouts of Khamla Keopithouane who reported, in 1982, to a League delegation that Eugene Henry DeBruin was dead. Mr. Khamla may have been referring to Duane Martin who was hacked to death, not Eugene Henry DeBruin. Mr. Khamla needs to be asked this question to clarify his position on this matter. In addition, the papers that Mr. Khamla held in his left hand (see attached brochure) when he reported such information need to be obtained and verified as these papers contain vital information about Eugene Henry DeBruin.

- (25) Conduct a thorough search for Luong Van Chuong, Deuanist soldier, who shaved Eugene Henry DeBruin in prison and spoke with DeBruin after DeBruin's 1966 escape.
- (26) Conduct a thorough search for Khamphanh Simpaseuth to determine his present whereabouts. As former Second Secretary to the Lao Embassy in Washington and now a defector, Mr. Khamphanh does have information on the whereabouts of Eugene Henry DeBruin.
- (27) Contact Charles Mann, former USAID director in Laos, now living in Florida, and ask him for information received from the Lao and Vietnamese concerning Eugene Henry DeBruin as reported in FOIAs in particular those which involve Minister of Finance Ngon Sananikone and Lao General Sinkapo who both noted that Eugene Henry DeBruin was dead, but later contradicted their statements by saying Eugene Henry DeBruin was alive.
- (28) Re-visit Soth Phetrasi. Show Mr. Soth his hand-written responses to Jerry DeBruin in response to questions raised by Jerry DeBruin. (Mr. Phetrasi's answers will be forwarded upon request.) Inquire with Mr. Soth as to his recollection of writing such responses to DeBruin and inquire if Mr. Soth has additional information on Eugene Henry DeBruin. Over the years, Mr. Soth frequently was quoted saying "DeBruin is alive and being treated well." Mr. Soth should be able to recall these public pronouncements which are documented in reports currently held by Jerry DeBruin.
- (29) As relations improve, request that the Lao Government permit an American team, with perhaps Thai Phisit Indradat (Intharathat) as a member, to return to the 1963 C-46 crash site (Ban Nassong) and recover the remains of Charles G. Herrick and Joseph C. Cheney II. In addition, request that the Lao Government permit an American team, with perhaps American escapee Deiter Dengler, to return to Houei Het to recover the remains of AF Duane Whitney Martin who was killed after the 1966 escape with Dengler et al. Dengler reports that he could take the team to the exact location where Martin was killed and buried.
- (30) In summary, over the years, a detailed pattern of live sightings (some as recent as 1991) of Eugene Henry DeBruin in prison in Laos has emerged. It is felt that now is the most propitious time for a team composed of representatives from each agency in the U.S. Government, including the U.S. Senate Select Committee, to collectively confront the Lao and propose that Eugene Henry DeBruin be released immediately through the auspices of a third country publicly unbeknown to the Lao Government.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerry DeBruin
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Revised 12 June 1992
Revised 4 July 1992
Revised 25 September 1992
Revised 30 November 1992

Confirmation

Space for your ideas, recommendations and findings that could be acted upon to achieve the goal as outlined on page one of this Message of Action. Please send your ideas, recommendations and findings to: Jerry DeBruin,

Thank you.

Your Name _____
Your Address _____
Your Telephone Number () - _____
Your Fax Number () - _____