

11 November 29

Please to Mrs. Marie Mr. FRANK Tel: (possibly, but not entirely legible) 510-3517249
American Pilot

To Mrs. Marie Gould (phonetically in Lao "Mowi Gol") and family, Dear Mrs. Mowi

Please pardon me Madam for having to write to you in Lao, to inform you of information about your husband "Mr. Fleng Gol." Since I cannot write in English, I hope you will be able to understand easier, rather than forcing me to write in English.

The letters that you sent to Heuang Det and Mr. "Fleng Gol" I have received them all, and I have been very busy. We are continuing to do this task but it is very difficult because we don't have the money to spend for all of the work. Madam, you already know that because we have never received any financial assistance, not even one bath (i.e. a unit of Thai money equal to approximately three US cents). I am telling you this to let you know that I don't need money for myself personally. Actually you already know that it costs money just to step outside the house, money for transportation, money to eat, money for a room ever since I started to Oudomxai, about 100 kilometers from the place where Mr. "Fleng" is and the route was mountainous passes where I had to walk, because Mr. "Fleng" is at a location near the boundary of Oudomxay and Phong Saly provinces, we communicated with each other on a high mountain where ethnic minority "Ikoh" people are. My friend and I cooperated to reach the place where Mr. "Fleng" is three times already, but Mr. Fleng would not agree to give us any thing for evidence, because he is afraid for his safety, the leader of the ethnic minority Ikho people will kill him. Mr. "Fleng" continues to be threatened with death by them, therefore, Mr. "Fleng" will not agree to give us anything as evidence. To this day I do not know for sure whether the American prisoner is Mr. "Fleng" or not. I cannot guarantee it 100 per cent. At present the three friends who are cooperating with me in Oudomxay province are having problems with the authorities, because the leader of the Ikho people reported to the Oudomxay province police that the people who are cooperating with me are looking for an American POW, because on one occasion "Y" (the leader) confiscated your family photograph and letter that I took to Mr. "Fleng." But Mr. "Fleng" was not able to read it yet, because the leader of the ethnic minorities confiscated it and demanded money from the person who carried the letter (the person who is cooperating with me) the sum of six million kip. But we didn't have any money to give him, therefore, he informed the police, because both the police and the leader of Oudomxay province are afraid of losing their positions. Both they and the authorities have profits due to the opium trade in their territory.

Each time it is the same, before I go to Oudomxay province Laos I must go to Bangkok and apply for a visa. 450 baht for the bus ride from Bangkok to Chiang Khong, 500 baht for my room, visa fee 300 baht, air travel from Houay Say to Oudomxay \$41.00, a room at Oudomxay for 15,000 kip. And from town to the place where Mr. "Fleng" is 44

kilometers, and then I must go on a winding road in the mountains. you must understand that it is very far. The winding, mountainous roads in Laos are not convenient like those in the United States.

Therefore, Madam. I cannot respond to you with certainty concerning this task. Because from the day I started to address this task for you Madam I have never received any government assistance from the agency responsible for this task, not even one bath. Whenever, whatever hour or day that Mr. "Fleng" is able to return at the same time with me I will have special expenses for our safety on the route. There will be many days on the road and we must rent a boat from Pak Beng to Chiang Khong.

My name is Mr Thongvanh Moto
PO Box 5
Amper (District) Chiang Khong
Changwat (Province) Chiang Rai 57140
Telephone: 53 7910

Sincerely,

Thongvanh Moto