

**MICHAEL REED**

**JOURNALIST**

**THE CONFLICT IN LAOS (1960-75)**  
**WILLIAM MORROW & Co./PUBLISHERS**

Greetings:

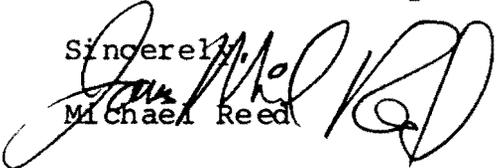
It's great to be back with the Air America Club once again. As I've told many of you in the past, I am compiling a comprehensive history book about U.S. operations in Laos during the years 1960-1975. About 50 percent of my book will chronicle the war in northern Laos. The rest will address the battle for the Ho Chi Minh Trail, the communist insurgency in Thailand, Red China's activities in Laos, and many other topics that affected the size and scope of American involvement in Southeast Asia.

My publisher, William Morrow & Company (see attached letter), will accept nothing less than a well-documented, objective work of history that allows the participants themselves to tell what happened in Laos and why. My research will be based almost exclusively on declassified documents and interviews with participants such as yourself. I have already located more than 300 people of all types who were involved with Laos. A few years ago, the U.S. Air Force even issued me a security clearance so that I could take notes from secret USAF records and submit them for declassification. To date, most of my "santitized" notes have returned with very few deletions.

The book will open with a description of Capt. Kong Le's coup and the Laotian Crisis of 1960-62. As the book unfolds, the cast of American players will include the embassy staff in Vientiane; the Central Intelligence Agency; Air America, Civil Air Transport, & Continental Air Services, Inc.; the Green Berets (MACV-SOG, White Star, etc.); the Air Commandos & Seventh Air Force; MACV's top brass in Saigon; and assorted military and political leaders in Washington.

The Asian players will include Gen. Vang Pao and the Hmong; Souvanna Phouma and the Royal Lao Government; the Royal Thai Government and its "sheep-dipped" forces in Laos; the Communist Chinese; and, of course, the North Vietnamese and Pathet Lao. The book will conclude with a description of the final collapse in 1975 and the post-war plight of the Hmong and other participants in Laos.

I am a freelance journalist based in suburban Washington, D.C., where I normally cover federal economic news. I got interested in Laos several years ago while writing an article about Marine PFC Robert Garwood and the MIA issue. I was formerly employed as a reporter and editor for the Washington Times. I also have a master's degree in journalism and public affairs from the American University. Thank you for your time - and good luck!

Sincerely,  
  
Michael Reed



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105 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10016

March 23, 1990

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is to certify that James Michael Reed is under contract to William Morrow & Company, Inc., Publishers, to write a balanced and factual general historical account of the involvement of the United States in Laos from 1960 to 1975 and the relation of that involvement to the war in Vietnam and domestic Laotian affairs. I am Mr. Reed's editor; should you need for any reason to contact me directly, I can be reached in writing or by telephone at the above address and number.

Sincerely,

Franklin M. Mount  
Editor

: fmm