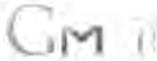


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Part 8

The Decision to Leave Military Region II (MRII) and Laos

On January 27, 1973, an accord was signed between America and North Vietnam. Those presents were Henry Kissinger and William Roger of the United States. Le Duc Tho, Ngyuen Thi Binh, Tran Van Lam, and Ngyuen Dui Trin North Vietnamese Communists. The peace agreement was meaningless because it seemed as if America signed the accord to give North Vietnam control over Indochina. "Laos, Cambodia and South Viet Nam." The North Vietnamese maneuvered to attack throughout Laos, Cambodia, and South Vietnam successfully by taking incremental steps. The United States on the other hand pulled out from Indochina rapidly without a plan and viewed it as a "loser". The United States did not show commitment to the agreement they had signed in Paris. North Vietnam was one of the poorest countries at the time. The population was around thirty millions, approximately fifteen million North Vietnamese Communists, and 15 million South Vietnamese liberal. The United States had 350 million people and was among the wealthiest and most powerful nations in the world. One has to ask why the American military pulled out of Indochina without any good planning. The Americans left behind their allies for the North Vietnamese Communists to persecute in inhumane ways. Many millions of South Vietnamese died, more than two million Cambodians died, and more than half a million Laotians died.

On February 9, 1973, Henry Kissinger came to Vientiane, Laos to tell the Royal Lao Government, who sided with the surrender completely to the North Vietnamese Communists. General Vang Pao realized that those who collaborated with the Americans would eventually be persecuted by the Communists down to the last man. He then planned accordingly: Gen. Vang Pao first considered staying and fighting to the last man, but he quickly realized that this was not a good plan. The Lao Communists and the North Vietnamese Communists did not like the Hmong and would join forces to gether to eliminate all of the Hmong, especially since they assisted the French then the Americans in the war between 1945 to 1954 and 1960 to 1975 to fight against the North Vietnamese Communists, causing them many losses in Laos. His second plan was to occupy Saya Boury, in Laos, in there would be easy access to Thailand. Unfortunately, it was clear that the population in Saya Boury, Luang Prabang, Luang Namtha, and Houei Say (MRI region) consisted of more than sixty percent who were in favor of the Communist regime. Gen. Vang Pao decided not to go there. His third plan was to flee to Thailand to wait and see if there would be an opportunity to return to Laos. Unfortunately, the Thai Government would not give the Hmong the freedom to live and work on their land. His Fourth plan, Gen. Vang Pao asked Jerry Daniels, the CIA liaison in Military Region II, to invite the U.S. Ambassador to Long Tieng to discuss the safety of the Hmong. The United States Ambassador arrived in Long Tieng on May 10, 1975, around 10 a.m. At the meeting Gen Vang Pao explained that the Hmong had fought with the United States during the Vietnam War and when the U.S. abruptly pulled out, they made the situation dangerous for everyone that they left behind. He asked Gen. Vang Pao, "How many of your people

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do you think the Communists will kill if they stay here?

Gen. Vang Pao shook his head and replied, "3,500 people." The United States Ambassador said, "Okay, no problem. I will bring the Charlie Green Helicopter to pick up your people, and be prepared." That day, Gen. Vang Pao ordered his soldiers to set up the lights along the Long Tieng airstrip to prepare so the helicopters would know where to land during the night. Gen. Vang Pao sent Col. Geu Vang (the author of this book) to Udon, Thailand to lead the helicopters to Long Tieng. By the time he arrived in Udon, the Americans decided to send Civilian C130 and C46 airplanes instead of military helicopters. Geu Vang was instructed by the Americans to stay in Udon. He never saw Long Tieng again.

About Jerry Daniel

Jerry Daniels was a Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Officer who worked alongside General Vang Pao since 1968. His nickname among the Hmong was "Hog." He helped the Hmong during the Vietnam War from 1968 to 1972 by asking the United States to give weapons and help fund various military activities. In time of peace during 1973 to 1975, Jerry Daniels helped the Hmong with many farming projects by developing chicken and pig farms in Nam Yone, Nam Goua, Nam Mo, and Muong Cha. He also helped develop agricultural farming in Nampha, Pha Khao (LS14), Muong Cha LS113. During 1975 to 1982, Jerry Daniels helped the Hmong escape to Namphong, Nongkhai, Thabo, Vinai Camp Thailand. He was also the one who mostly provided food for the Hmong. From 1976 to 1982, he was instrumental in helping the Hmong to immigrate to the United States.

On April 28, 1982, Jerry Daniels died at his home in Bangkok, Thailand. He had been dead for three days before his body was found. His body was shipped back to the United States and was buried in Montana. His death remains a mystery among the Hmong and many Americans who knew him. When the casket was brought back, it was not open for viewing. Since people did not see his body, they questioned if he really was dead. Many thought that he might be sent to another mission while others believed that he did not want to return to the United States and may still be hiding in Thailand. In 1982, the American Government officially announced that Jerry Daniels was dead and was buried in Montana. Jerry Daniels was someone whom many Hmong knew, respected, and will miss forever.

Photo#64 Helicopter HT34 loaded material to rebuild the school which was burned down by Communist Attack at Long Tieng when the school was rebuild children had place to study. The photo on top of the Student were from left to right for the men. Col. Vang Youa, Mua Dang, Pahom Sundara, Dr. Louat, Mr. Graham Hunter Australian and Mr Larry Woodson US. IVS. Unknown for the girls but they were people in LS 37 Muong Phoune near Vang Vieng.

During the war time from 1955 to 1972 and after war from 1972 to 1975, the United States sent many US citizens to help the people of Laos as military advisors, technical services advisors, Central Intelligence Agent advisors, AIDS advisors, economics advisors and IVS (International Volunteer Services). Larry D. Woodson was one of the IVS who spoke good Laotian and was a good friend with the Laotian. He now is leaders and live in Kansas. He wrote:

I arrived in Laos in August of 1964. My initial assignment was to work as a volunteer teacher with International Volunteer Services at the regional teacher training school in Luang Prabang. I assisted the Director, Tiao Chantavady, with school supplies, campus maintenance, agricultural programs, and summer programs. I played tennis, coached some basket ball, and taught English.

In 1966, International Voluntary Services invited me to serve as an Assistant Chief of Party and work with International Volunteer Services to assist volunteers working at the regional teacher training schools in the various provinces in Laos. I also worked with English Teachers that were assigned to French Lycees and to the German Technical School in Vientiane. My tour was extended to 1969, an additional year to a two year assignment.

In 1969, I was promoted as an Associate Chief of Party for International Volunteer Services and assigned to the Sisavong Vong University at Dong Dok just outside Vientiane. IVS provided teachers to the English Section along with British, Australian, and other countries.

In 1971, I was contracted to work for USAID/EDU as a Refugee Education Advisor. For three years, I was assigned to the Royal Lao Minister of Education in the Primary Education Section. I was to travel to refugee areas and villages and determine the primary education needs. This included getting the needs of the refugee villages in terms of teachers, students, school supplies, temporary building needs, blackboards, desks, benches, etc. The refugee locations were across the country from the North to the South. At one time, it was estimated that we had some 19,000 children in refugee classrooms and the teachers needed to teach the classes. I assisted with the construction of some 4,000 classrooms.

In 1974, I was contracted with the US Embassy to assist with agricultural programs in MR II. I traveled to Long Chieng and assisted with livestock programs that included swine, water buffalos, and cattle requested by General Vang Pao for the Hmong in the area. Yang Yee was assigned to assist with the purchase of animals and transport them to MR II. While in the area, I also assisted with the transportation of swine to LS-32, North of the Plain of Jarres. I also assisted with the proposed swine project in Long Tieng.

The agricultural program was to allow former farmers to raise animals to support their families reduce their needs for assistance.

Due to the change in the political climate, I was evacuated from Long Tieng on Friday and further evacuated from Laos the following Friday. I believe the Pathet Lao took over Long Tieng on Wednesday and the American Compound a few days later. *The author of this book would like to thank to Mr. Woodson to send this short detail about his role during the Vietnam War, not many people saw the need of the Laotian people during the critical time, but Mr Woodson Who speak good Laotian sacrificed his time, and risked his life to help many laotians in need. God bless him and on behalf of the people in military region II we appreciated his love and care*

It took three and half days from May 11-14, 1975, to transport all

of General Vang Pao's people to Namphong Camp in the Province Khone Ken, Thailand. Once the planes stopped picking up, many Hmong searched for ways to leave (MRII) for Thailand. Some went by car, and many more walked. The Hmong and Lao from (MRII) fled to Thabo, Nong Khai, and Nam Phong Camp. The Hmong and Lao from (MRI) Luang Prabang, Sayaboury, Luang Namtha fled to Nane, Changvat Leoui, Changvat Phayao. The border of Thailand was flooded with Hmong and Lao fleeing from their country. In November 1975, Namphong Camp started to close its doors to refugees.

On June 2, 1975, Thailand pressured Gen. Vang Pao to leave Thailand. He left for France then to the USA. In 1976, the refugee Camp Namphong was closed and the refugees transferred to Vinai Camp. At Vinai Camp Hmong and Lao refugees were brought together from Thabo, Nongkhai, and Nam Phong Camp. In February 1976, the United States began to permit visas to those who had worked for USAID and CIA. Next, the churches in the United States gave visas to The Christian families from Laos and, lastly, those who were serving in the Vietnam War and their families to come to the United States. The United States continued to allow those refugees to come to the U.S. until 2006.

Thank God for giving the people of the United States good hearts, and love and for help the Hmong and Lao who lost their country, their fellowship, and hope for their future. Both Hmong and Lao were in fear because they were unacquainted, unfamiliar with what they saw in their flight. In their new lives, they felt isolation, loneliness and depression. They didn't (and many still don't) know who to ask for help, not only that but the change affected many Hmong and Lao lives during their flight to Thailand.

Part 9

Questions/Answers

1. Why did the war in Dien Bien Phu start?
2. Why was the United States involved in the Indochina war in between 1960-1975?
3. Why did the United States lose the Vietnam War?

There were many factors that caused the Indochina War. First, the French colonized Indochina that which changed the territories. Second, the British colonized Siam and Burma. The colonization by foreign powers caused the countries in SouthEast Asia to stand up to fight for independence.

In 1929, Ho Chi Minh created a freedom group in Indochina (Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam) to fight against the French but with not much success. Ho Chi Minh was hiding in Thailand.

World War II started. Germany invaded Europe in 1939 and the Japanese invaded SouthEast Asia. In 1944, the situation turned better for Ho Chi Minh's hand in politics. During 1949 to 1950, and the Communist's War against the Western hemisphere, in China and North Korean changed the political situation in two blocks, East and West. East was the Communist world and West was the Capitalist. After WWII, the United States and European countries had a good political relationship but not so after Dien Bien Phu was lost to the Communists.

Ho Chi Minh joined the Communist World in 1951. He sent many divisions of North Vietnamese to train at the border of Laos, Vietnam, and China and strongly supported by Chinese. This caused the West (USA and France) to worry about the expansion of Communism to SouthEast Asia.

The USA (President Eisenhower) and the France (De Gaulle Statesman) had the vision to start the military base in Dien Bien Phu to give a lesson to the Communists. US had agreed and promised to give air support to the French military, but at last the US broke the promise and let the North Vietnamese Communist to gain control easily Dien Bien Phu on May 7, 1954.

At first, the US had deal with Hocht Minh not to attack Dien Bien Phu and allow the conflict to settle down with the French in peace in a conference set up in Geneva for May 20, 1954. Hocht Minh used this opportunity to attack Dien Bien Phu quickly and occupied it not many days before the conference start. The peace agreement for Indochina was reset on July 20, 1954, but the United States did not join the conference; only thirteen countries participated. This change of the situation made the whole world shake because of the fear of the communist doctrine. The Communists framed the West as "Tiger paper." In order to contain Communism in SouthEast Asia, the United States sent many agents to

observe the change. The United States had no choice but to force intervention in the crisis in Laos during the Kong Lae Coup Revolt on August 8-9, 1960, in which the Communists influenced openly and did not respect to the Geneva agreement. The US decided to protect Laos, South Vietnam, and SouthEast Asia (SEA) from Communist expansion. This war was critical to the US and was called the "10,000 days of war," as it seemed a very long war to the US. The United States' role in the Vietnam was not to conquer for victory but only to give a lesson to the Communists. The United States used maximum strength and forces to weaken the Communist mentality, but no matter how harsh the consequences, many pains gave stronger heart and encouragement to the North Vietnamese Communists who were adamant in their *dream* of independence, such that women and children joined the fight for independence.

During the war 1967-1968, the news reports coming back to the US from Me Le and Hue South Vietnam showed pictures of children and women who were killed in the war in South Vietnam. The United States' citizens started to oppose and protest the war that created a shake up in the politics of the U.S. Government.

President Richard Nixon wrote in his book **"Why the north won the Vietnam War"** chapter Eight stated that Ho Chi Minh is gonna Win! *"The notion that North Vietnam won the America War in Vietnam because of the actions of the American peace movement pleases both the left and the right. The left because it testifies to its own efficacy: Never before in the history of warfare has a domestic peace movement forced the government to call a halt to war. The right because it Means that the U.S. arms remain invincible; only betrayal can explain American defeat."*

In 1974, was the critical year for American leadership and politics. President Richard Nixon resigned as the crisis of Water Gate weakened the Commander in chief of the USA. Nixon resignation made the North Vietnamese Communists easily read American politics and take advantage to win the war in Vietnam: First, they took Cambodia in 1974. Second, they took South Vietnam in February 1975. Third, they took Laos in the middle of 1975. The military situation of the United States did not lose the Vietnam War, but in politics the US must lost the war.

In 1967, one French journalist met with General Vo Ngyuen Giap and asked him if, America was a powerful nation and how he felt about fighting against America. Gen. Giap replied, *"You will see a second Dien Bien Phu in South Vietnam."* At that time, General Westmoreland was the US military commander in South Vietnam. The French journalist went on to ask him about Gen. Vo Ngyuen Giap statement that there would be a second Dien Bien Phu in South Vietnam, and what he thought of that. Gen. Westmoreland replied, *"Go to ask my Assistant Commander in Hue."* (Central Vietnam). The French journalist wanted to go to Hue Region but the U.S. indicated there was a dangerous zone (At that time some French journalists were spying for the Communist,) so the US did not

allow the French journalist to go to Hue. General Westmoreland called a meeting with his high officers to discuss how Giap possibly created a second Dien Bien Phu in South Vietnam.

First, occupying Hue by maneuvers across the demilitarized zone would mean invading South Vietnam; Second, occupying Hue by maneuver from the sea, the North Vietnamese did not have the appropriate equipments; Third, maneuvers from the mountains and hills from Laos to attack Hue might be the only possibility and the only way Ho Chi Minh would be able to enter South Vietnam. From these points of view, the United States created the military base at Khe Sanh (the border of Laos, South Vietnam, and North Vietnam.) when the U.S. first started the base, the North Vietnamese watched it closely. When the military base was fully equipped allowing them to trace the North Vietnamese ground forces, it also had many outposts which attacked and retreated to the center from an eight miles radius to the last two miles radius. The North Vietnamese sent 60,000 troops, attacked, and wiped out the U.S. troops from eight miles to the last two miles radius to the center which was made from strong bunkers with cement. The U.S. ordered B52s to drop bombs on the area that the North Vietnamese had entered. After the bombings, the U.S. sent helicopters to evacuate all U.S. troops then claimed that they had lost Khe Sanh to North Vietnamese. During the evacuation, some helicopters and C130 planes were shot down. The retreat of Khe

which proved to be a loss to the U.S., but out of 60,000 South Vietnamese troops who entered Khe Sanh, only 10,000 survived; many more of them were wounded or handicapped. The French journalist returned to General Vo Ngyuen Giap and asked him why he did not ask the Chinese to reinforce him like Dien Bien Phu and instead sent many of his own people to die. Gen. Vo Ngyuen Giap replied that he did not want to ask the Chinese for help because where they went, they stayed. When Khe Sanh fell in 1967, the South Vietnamese Communists Party quickly mobilized troops to attack Hue in 1968, during the Tet Vietnam New-

The South Vietnamese Communists who died on the battle field wore all black and when pictures were taken and seen in the news in the U.S., many American people thought these were civilians being killed by American soldiers. North and South Vietnamese Communist lost 50,000 troops while the US lost around 5,000 troops in Hue. This brought great awareness to the citizens of the United States and perpetuated a protest against the government by many students and hippies because of the war in Vietnam. The Communists did not consider themselves a regular army but the people's army. So, children, and women died in Me Le and Hue. South Vietnam used Communist tactical warfare in using humans as shells or the deer's tactics (The Buck never comes out the first place in the open field; only the doe and little ones come out first.) The U.S sent to the Vietnam War the hunter who did not know deer tactics very well.

May 7, 1954, the fall of Dien Bien Phu brought many change to the Laotian people with many parts of Laos under North Vietnamese control. Many refugees were relocated to other provinces. The French brought many refugees from North Vietnam to Laos to the provinces of Xiengkhouang, Vientiane, Savannakhet, and Sayaboury. Not just refugees but many infiltrations of Communists to Laos created an unsafe and trembling political and economic situation. The North Vietnamese openly manipulated Kong Lae to have the coup d'etat for adopting Neutral Laos for political reason, that which made it easier for the Communist world to be involved in the Indochina War.

The US saw the change then decided to help by supporting the rightist government led by TiaoBoun Oum Nachampassak and Gen. Phoumi Nosavanh then escalated to the Vietnam War during 1960-1975. During the war, the United States gave limited help to Tiao Boun Oum and Gen. Phoumi Nosavanh while respecting Laos' neutrality. The North Vietnamese, however, did not show the same respect. I think President Kennedy had good reason to bring the war far away and to have the Communists focus their minds more in Asia than all around the world and in the US itself at that time not only that but the Vietnam War gave good lesson to both side who fought during the Indochina War 1960-1975.

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