

**Larry & Dee Woodson**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Friday, November 21, 2003 8:01 AM  
**Subject:** Charlie Dean

Charlie Dean's father, Howard Senior, was a long-time friend of mine. When son Charlie said he and his Australian friend wanted to see something of Southeast Asia Howard, Sr. suggested Charlie come to Luang Prabang to see me. I had never met son Charlie. He arrived in my office one day and after some banter back and forth I found he was Howard, sr. son. My wife and I got his laundry done, had him stay a couple of days in the village of one of the USAID staff. We even got him a slot in the USAID boat in the annual boat race. Charlie told me he planned to take the Mekong River passenger boat back to Vientiane. I said it was too dangerous and had him flown back to join up with his Australian friend in Vientiane. They decided it was safe to go down river from there. They took the passenger boat and were taken off somewhere near Thakkek, purportedly for taking photos, which was forbidden. The boys were taken up a P.L. post in the hills. There was one 8'x10" photo received of the boys playing volleyball, so we knew where they were. Howard, Sr. came out to see what had happened. He was very casual about it, assuming the boys would soon turn up. He only stayed with the ambassador (Charlie Whitehouse) a couple of days. Charlie Dean's mother, Andre, came out soon after. She stayed a couple of weeks, came up to L.P. where she and I, Whitehouse, and Souphannavong attended a dinner given by Souvanna Phouma. The Red Prince Souphannavong, said he knew nothing of the boys' disappearance. So it went. The Mission tried to find out if Charlie had been working for the CIA. This investigation included trying to determine if I was with the Agency and, if so, that might be the reason Charlie visited me. Time magazine and the New York Times has several of the facts wrong, but that is basically what happened. All the best..Lou Connick

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