MSGNO 191 (PCXX) *08/29/86* *10:07:31.8.5*
ZCZC 15:06:08Z (PC)
PTTCZYUW RUEKJCS9818 2411320- --RUEALGX.
ZNY
P 291320Z AUG 86
FM JCS WASHINGTON DC
INFO RUEACHS/CHS-GRID/OCJCS
RUEADWD/OCSA WASHINGTON DC
RUENAAA/CNO WASHINGTON DC
RUEAHQA/CSAF WASHINGTON DC
RUERAAA/ANMCC FT RITCHIE MD
RUEASDG/SDG-GRID/SECDEF
RUEALGX/SAFE
P 291314Z AUG 86
<> FM <><>JCRC<><> LIAISON BANGKOK TH
TO RUEKJCS/DIA WASHINGTON DC//VO-PW// PRIORITY
<> INFO RUHQBPA/CDR <><>JCRC<><> BARBERS PT HI
RUHQHQA/USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI//J2/J3/J36//
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC//OASD-ISA/PW-MIA//
RUEKJCS/JCS WASHDC//J5/PW-MIA//
RUEADWW/WHITEHOUSE WASHDC//NSC/MR CHILDRESS//
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC//EAP/VLC//
BT
EZ1:
LIAISON BANGKOK 39818
EZ2:
CITE: 3651 AUG 86.
SUBJECT: SMITH/MCINTIRE CASE
1.

DATA

- A. DATA

- B. MCINTIRE HIMSELF DESTROYED THE "OBASSY" VIDEOTAPE BY BURNING. HE DID IT IN THE PRESENCE OF MARK SMITH AND LAWYER MARK WAPLE, AND THIS EVENT WAS RECORDED ON FILM (OR VIDEOTAPE?) BY JACK BAILEY AS A PART OF A DOCUMENTARY THAT HE (BAILEY) IS FILMING.
- C. BRITISH CITIZEN ROBIN GREGSON IS PRESENTLY IN BEIRUT (NFI).
2. WE WILL ADVISE IF/WHEN ANY ADDITIONAL INFO BECOMES AVAILABLE.
BT
#9818
NNNN
NNDD

CAPITAL LINE

USA TODAY'S BRIEFING ON WASHINGTON

Phantom videotape is elusive as MIAs

UPI

PEROT: Failed to purchase POW tape

Texas billionaire H. Ross Perot, after conferring with Vice President George Bush, put up $4.2 million toward obtaining a videotape of USA prisoners of war in Laos. Perot said the "long shot" didn't produce the tape; the money wasn't paid. Retired Army Maj. Mark Smith told the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee in June he saw the tape, showing Caucasian prisoners being forced to work in northern Laos timber and mining operations. Smith said Robin Gregson, a British citizen who claimed to have the videotape, rejected the $4.2 million offer. Some believe the tape doesn't exist. Said Perot: "Like everything else around the POW-MIA thing, it's a will-o'-the-wisp."

Perot pledged $4.2 million for tape of POWs in Laos

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Texas billionaire H. Ross Perot, after conferring with Vice President George Bush, pledged $4.2 million in a futile effort to obtain a videotape purporting to show American prisoners of war alive in Laos.

"I was asked by our government to pursue this thing, to get the tape if it existed," Mr. Perot said in a recent telephone interview. "I said fine. It's a long shot, but I'll be glad to do it."

The tape was never produced, and the money was never paid.

Mr. Perot refused to identify who in the government asked him to pursue the matter.

Marlin Fitzwater, spokesman for Mr. Bush, said yesterday that the vice president discussed the tape with Mr. Perot and asked him to "take a look at the issues there and see if he thought they were legitimate."

But Mr. Fitzwater added, "I'm sure he [Mr. Bush] didn't ask him to make payments."

Also involved in the effort was Rep. Bill Hendon, North Carolina Republican, who said yesterday that he discussed the videotape matter with Mr. Bush and that later, "The vice president called me, and, based on our discussion, I tried to assist Mr. Perot in any way I could."

According to a former Army major who first told the story of the tape, the money was on deposit in the Bank of America in Singapore last April when he attempted to obtain photographic evidence that Americans were still being held prisoner.

Retired Maj. Mark Smith told the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee last June that he and Mr. Hendon went to Singapore with instructions from the Defense Intelligence Agency to offer $4.2 million to Robin Gregson, a British citizen who claimed to have possession of the videotape.

Maj. Smith told the committee that Mr. Gregson, who also uses the name John Obassy, rejected the offer.

Maj. Smith testified that Mr. Gregson told him: "I didn't ask you for $4.2 million in cash. I asked you for support for these people in Laos. I have never asked for money."

The people in Laos were rebel forces fighting the communist government.

The major also told the committee he had seen the tape and that it showed Caucasians being held prisoner and forced to work in timber and mining operations in northern Laos.

The Defense Department lists 2,441 Americans who did not return from the conflict in Southeast Asia. In its monthly tally of reports pertaining to possible POWs, the Defense Intelligence Agency lists 881 cases of alleged sightings of live Americans being held prisoner since the fall of Saigon in 1975.

The latest DIA tally lists 136 of that total as currently unresolved. The agency said the remainder were disproven.

The Dallas computer magnate first became involved in the POW issue in 1969 when he attempted to fly to Hanoi to deliver medical supplies and Christmas dinners to American POWs. He also financed a successful 1979 rescue mission to Iran to free two of his employees from a Tehran prison.

"The fact that we have one American, a Special Forces major, who says he has seen the tape, makes it more than just some bogus thing floating out there in Asia," Mr. Perot said.

"The basic steps involved were to produce the tape, see the tape and if in fact the tape was what it was purported to be, at that point, pay for the tape and have it available to our government," he said. "So it was a kind of reasonably fail-safe process in that you got [a chance] to look before you leaped."

Wash Times 4 Sep 86

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LIAISON BANGKOK 061593 01/02

(111) ORIGIN JCRC INFO AMB DCM2 SA3 POL DAO DATT/TLO

FYZCZCZCZI
PP RUHQFA RUHJUD
RUHJFS RUHJUD
DE RUEBKA #1593/01 010
ZNR
P 101256Z JAN 87
FM JCRC LIAISON BANGKOK TH
TO RUHQFA / CDR JCRC EARERS PT EI PRIORITY
INFO RUHOBGA / USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI//J2/J3/J36// PRIORITY
RUEAJCS / DIA WASHINGTON DC//VO-PW// PRIORITY
RUEAJCS / JCS WASHDC//J5/P4-MIA//
RUEAJCS / SECDEF WASHDC//OASD-ISA/P4-MIA//
RUEAJCS / WHITEHOUSE WASHDC//NSC/HR CHILDRESS//
RUHJES / AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
RUHJES / AMCONSUL UDORN
RUHJUD / AMCONSUL UDORN
BT

LIAISON BANGKOK 061593

CITE:

SUBJECT: JCRC RPT TR7-001A, POSSIBLE IMMINENT TURNOVER OF MIA REMAINS AND VIDEOTAPE

REF: A. JCRC BAA 07071Z JAN 87 (TR7-001).
B. JCRC EKA 261562 DEC 85.

1. SOURCE: SC

DATA

ON 9 JAN 87, SOURCE CONTACTED JCRC-LNB AND REQUESTED JCRC REP GADOURI TO MEET WITH HIM. AT THE SUBSEQUENT MEETING, SOURCE INFORMED JCRC REP THAT HE HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH SC TO CALL-IN REMAINS OF MISSING COOPERATION IN ATTEMPTING CONCERNING SC'S AMERICANS FROM ELEMENTS OF THE LAO RESISTANCE (REF A). HE STATED THAT SC APPRECIATED THE ASSISTANCE THAT JCRC PROVIDED TO VIETNAMESE REFUGEE IN FACILITATING THAI IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES, AND DIRECTING TO THE THAI JCRC'S SINCERITY. SOURCE CONSIDERED IT A MEASURE OF JCRC'S CONTACTS TO DELIVER THE STATED THAT SC EXPECTED HIS CONTACT HIM REMAINS IN A FEW DAYS. HE SAID SC WILL CONTACT HIM AGAIN THE REMAINS ARE READY FOR PICKUP. HE STATED THAT HE WOULD NOTIFY JCRC WHEN HE BEARS BACK FROM SC AND PLANNED TO GO TO BANGKOK TO DESERVE THE TURNOVER TO JCRC REP. HE SUGGESTED THAT JCRC REP TRAVEL SITE HIM TO BANGKOK. POINTING OUT THAT HE DID NOT BELIEVE THE LAO CONTACTS ARE WERE BRINGING IN THE REMAINS COULD BE ABLE TO SPEND MORE THAN A FEW DAYS IN BANGKOK PRIOR TO ANY JCRC TRAVEL. HE WOULD PEARCH. (NOTE: SOURCE INDEED HAS REMAINS AND ATTEMPT TO ASCERTAIN THAT SC IS EVEN FURTHER, IS WILLING TO TURN THEM OVER TO USG CUSTODY. (COMPANY JCRC REP WOULD REMAIN FROM TRAVELLING IN THE COMPANY OF SOURCE.)

MT AND DATA

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2G

COMMENTS: AFTER DISCUSSING THE PENDING REMAINS TURNOVER DURING THE 9 JAN MEETING, SOURCE INFORMALLY BROUGHT UP THE SUBJECT OF AN AMERICAN POW WHO WAS ALLEGEDLY KILLED DURING AN EFFORT BY THE LAO RESISTANCE TO EXTRACT HIM IN DECEMBER 1985 (SEE REF B). SOURCE EXPRESSED SURPRISE THAT THE USG HAD SHOWN NO INTEREST IN THE INCIDENT. JCRC REP EXPLAINED THAT HE WAS AWARE OF THE INCIDENT, BUT NEVER SAW EVIDENCE THAT IT WAS MORE THAN A RUMOR THAT CIRCULATED FOR AWHILE AND THEN DIED OUT. SOURCE STATED THAT HE HAD A VOICE TAPE OF AN INTERVIEW WITH A FATHER LAO OFFICER WHICH HE HAD CONDUCTED AT SC'S HOUSE PRIOR TO ARRIVING TO ARRANGE FOR A BLAKED TO BE PAID ON DELIVERY OF THE POW. SOURCE STATED THAT GRITZ AND WEEKS HAD LATER TRAVELLED TO THAILAND IN LATE 1985 TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PICKUP AT A POINT ALONG THE MEKONG RIVER IN UDON PROVINCE.

DATA

SOURCE SAID HE HAD HAD BEEN ATTACKED BY A GROUP WHO ALLEGED HAD BEEN KILLED. SOURCE LATER LEARNED THAT THE RESCUE GROUP WAS ATTACKED BY PATHET LAO FORCES AND THE AMERICAN WAS KILLED. JCRC REP ASKED IF, AT ANY TIME DURING THIS OPERATION, SOURCE HAD SEEN ANY CONCLUSIVE, TANGIBLE EVIDENCE THAT AN ACTUAL AMERICAN POW WAS INVOLVED. SOURCE ADMITTED THAT THERE WAS NO SOLID PROOF. BUT THE OPERATION HAD PROCEEDED BASED ON THE INFORMATION FROM THE PATHET LAO OFFICER WHICH HE CONSIDERED VERY CREDIBLE. SOURCE SAID HE DID NOT KNOW THE NAME OF THE AMERICAN WHO WAS TO BE RESCUED. SEEN ASKED ABOUT OTHER DETAILS, SOURCE STATED EVERYTHING WAS ON THE TAPE. JCRC REP ASKED SOURCE IF HE COULD MAKE THE TAPE AVAILABLE. SOURCE SAID THAT HE COULD BUT SINCE THE TAPE IS IN THE U.S., IT WOULD BE AWHILE BEFORE HE COULD OBTAIN IT. (SE NOTE THAT SOURCE'S PASSPORT INDICATES HE WAS IN THAILAND FROM 16 NOV 85 TO 5 DEC 85, AND RICHARD PATRICK CLARK'S PASSPORT DATED 26 NOV 85 AND PASSPORT) SHOWS A THAI ENTRY STAMP

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