

~~TOP SECRET UMBRA~~

CATEGORY = 2

M = 108

MESSAGE = 00022983

(b) (3) - P.L. 86-36

ZCZCZKZK

RR LHS ZAD ZDD ZHA ZDR ZHZ DE

RR [REDACTED] DE

[REDACTED] 9A 0581613 R 271520Z

FM DIRNSA

TO OSCAR/ZULU HOTEL

ZEN

~~TOP SECRET TRINE~~ FRENCH [REDACTED] BT HS 68116-18

XXMM

ENP31FTD27028 3/04 [REDACTED] T173-68 AVC, KUS/ FORP, AVIA-Y/D, O. THREE AMERICAN PILOTS

RELEASED FROM NORTH VIETNAM

XXCC

17 FEB 68

[REDACTED]

THE THREE AMERICAN PILOTS WHOSE RELEASE WAS ANNOUNCED ON THE EVE OF TET, WERE HANDED OVER YESTERDAY 16 FEBRUARY TO TWO REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NATIONAL MOBILIZATION COMMITTEE TO END THE WAR. DURING A PRESS CONFERENCE ENSIGN DAVID MATHENY, CAPTAIN JOHN BLACK AND MAJOR MORRIS MILLER OVERLY WERE PRESENTED ((PART 2)) TO THE FOREIGN NEWSPAPERMEN. THE SECRETARY OF THE VIETNAM COMMITTEE FOR THE DEFENSE OF WORLD PEACE [REDACTED] EMPHASIZED, IN A SHORT SPEECH, THE HUMANITARIAN AND LENIENT POLICY OF THE DRV GOVERNMENT. HE ASKED THE PILOTS AND THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE AMERICAN PEACE MOVEMENT TO EXPRESS VIETNAM'S GRATITUDE TO ALL THOSE IN THE UNITED STATES, WHO ARE FIGHTING AGAINST THE WAR AND IN FAVOR OF THE RAPPROCHMENT OF THE TWO PEOPLE. ONE OF THE PILOTS THANKED THE DRV GOVERNMENT FOR THE GENEROSITY IT HAD DISPLAYED TOWARD THEM. THE PILOTS AND THEIR ESCORTS BOARDED AN ICC PLANE ((PART 3)) WHICH LEFT HANOI AT ABOUT 2000 HOURS FOR VIENTIANE. FROM THE STATEMENTS OF THOSE WHO HAD APPROACHED THEM, THE PILOTS APPEARED TO BE IN GOOD PHYSICAL CONDITION AND DID NOT GIVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THEY HAD UNDERGONE BRAINWASHING. IT SHOULD BE POINTED OUT THAT THE RELEASED PILOTS HAD ALL BEEN PRISONERS LESS THAN FIVE MONTHS. DURING THIS TIME [REDACTED] THEY NEITHER CONFESSSED NOR PUBLICLY SOUGHT LENIENCY FROM THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT.

17 FEB 68 1252Z XXMM 400 0000

MATHENY - # 0850

BLACK - # 0881

OVERLY - # 0823

(b) (1)
 (b) (3) - 50 USC 403
 (b) (3) - 18 USC 798
 (b) (3) - P.L. 86-36

~~TOP SECRET UMBRA~~

Approved for release by NSA on 05-16-2014, Transparency Case# 65886

376

0823

0881

982023-4-2-5708

0850

Not in D.B.