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Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

14 December 2016

Mr. John Greenwald, Jr.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Reference: EOM-2017-00069

Dear Mr. Greenwald:

This is a final response to your correspondence of 17 November 2016 requesting an Executive Order 12958, as amended, mandatory declassification review of ***SOVIET PLANS TO HAVE PLANE CARRYING POW'S FROM HANOI OVERLY (SIC) LAOS, AND TO ATTEMPT TO LIMIT ACCESS OF AMERICAN OFFICIALS IN RANGOON, dated 22 September 1972.***

We completed a thorough search of our records and located the document responsive to your request. We have determined that the document may be released in sanitized form. We have deleted material that must remain classified on the basis of section 3.3(b)(1) of Executive Order 13526. Enclosed is a copy of the document showing our deletions and citing our exemption.

As the CIA Information and Privacy Coordinator, I am the CIA official responsible for this determination. You have the right to appeal this response to the Agency Release Panel, in my care, within 45 days from the date of this letter. Please include the basis of your appeal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael Lavergne".

**Michael Lavergne**  
**Information and Privacy Coordinator**

Enclosure



# Intelligence Information Cable

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**SECRET**

3.3(b)(1)

DIST 22 SEPTEMBER 1972

COUNTRY : USSR/NORTH VIETNAM

DOI : 22 SEPTEMBER 1972

SUBJECT : SOVIET PLANS TO HAVE PLANE CARRYING POW'S FROM HANOI  
OVERFLY LAOS, AND TO ATTEMPT TO LIMIT ACCESS OF  
AMERICAN OFFICIALS IN RANGOON

3.3(b)(1)

1. IN ORDER TO PROHIBIT OR LIMIT ACCESS BY AMERICAN OFFICIALS, SOVIET EMBASSY OFFICIALS IN RANGOON STATED ON 22 SEPTEMBER 1972 THAT AEROFLOT FLIGHT SU-542 CARRYING THREE AMERICAN POW'S OUT OF HANOI ON 23 SEPTEMBER WILL OVERFLY VIENTIANE AND MAKE ITS FIRST STOP AT RANGOON. THE NEW ARRIVAL TIME OF THIS FLIGHT IS APPROXIMATELY 1745 HOURS LOCAL TIME (1115 GMT).

2. SOVIET EMBASSY OFFICIALS IN RANGOON HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED NOT TO ACCEPT BOARDING PASSENGERS IN RANGOON WHO DO NOT POSSESS A VALID VISA FOR THE USSR. IT WAS NOT PLANNED TO ISSUE ANY VISA IN RANGOON.

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[Redacted]

3.3(b)(1)

PAGE 2 OF 2 PAGES

~~SECRET~~

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(classification)

(dissem controls)

3. SINCE THE TRANSIT LOUNGE AT MINGLADON AIRPORT IN RANGOON IS OPEN TO ALL ACCREDITED DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL, SOVIET OFFICIALS ARE NOT CERTAIN THEY CAN PREVENT AMERICAN OFFICIALS FROM ENTERING THE LOUNGE. FOR THIS REASON THESE OFFICIALS HOPE TO CONVINCING THE POW'S TO REMAIN ON THE AIRCRAFT WHILE THE PLANE REFUELS.

4. [Redacted] COMMENT. NORMALLY A VISA FOR THE USSR IS NOT REQUIRED FOR PASSENGERS WHO EXPECT TO TRANSIT WITHIN 48 HOURS. IN THIS CASE, HOWEVER, SOVIET OFFICIALS APPARENTLY DO NOT PLAN TO OBSERVE THAT RULE.) 3.3(b)(1)

5. [Redacted] DISSEM. EMBASSY DEFACT AT RANGOON: SENT TO CINCPAC, 3.3(b)(1)

[Redacted] VIENTIANE, SAIGON [Redacted] 3.3(b)(1)

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[Redacted]

3.3(b)(1)

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