

UNCLAS

MOSCOW 23529

CHRON
MSG OUT
KOROTKOV

ORIGIN: POW-1

INFO: MCA-1 PMIL-1 POL-1 DAO-1 DCM-1 AMB-1 18AUG 94

DISTRIBUTION: POW

CHARGE: PROG

APPROVED: (b)(6)

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RR RUEAHOF RUEKJCS RUAGOTC RUHQHQB RUEKJCS RUEKJCS

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC//USDP:RSA/DPMO-RA//

RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 7689

INFO RUEAHOF/CDRPERSCOM ALEX VA//TAPC-PE2//

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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 MOSCOW 023529

DEPT FOR EUR/ISCA AND EAP

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: KPOW, MOPS, PREL, PHUM, RS

SUBJECT: POW/MIA: REINTERVIEW OF RETIRED COLONEL
GAVRIIL IVANOVICH KOROTKOV

REF: SECDEF 271100Z JUL 94

1. SUMMARY: ON AUGUST 5, 1994, TASK FORCE RUSSIA (TFR) MET AGAIN WITH RETIRED COLONEL GAVRIIL IVANOVICH KOROTKOV WHO SAID HE HAD NO INFORMATION ON AN INTERROGATION CENTER NEAR PYONGYANG. HE ALSO SAID THAT HE WAS STILL FIRMLY CONVINCED THAT SOME AMERICAN SERVICEMEN FELL CAPTIVE TO THE KGB BUT THAT DOCUMENTATION TO THAT EFFECT WAS INACCESSIBLE. END SUMMARY.

2. ON AUGUST 5, 1994, TFR MEMBERS (b)(6) AND (b)(6) MET WITH RETIRED COLONEL GAVRIIL IVANOVICH KOROTKOV AS DIRECTED BY REFTEL. KOROTKOV HAD NEVER WATCHED THE BBC TELEVISION PROGRAM, "SPIES IN THE SKY," AND TFR USED THE OPPORTUNITY TO WATCH THE PROGRAM AGAIN WITH KOROTKOV AND TO GIVE HIM THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

UNCLAS

MOSCOW 23529

TRANSCRIPT OF HIS INTERVIEW SHOWN ON THE PROGRAM. KOROTKOV WAS VISIBLY MOVED BY THE PROGRAM AND WAS VERY COMPLIMENTARY OF ITS CONTENT AND ACCURACY. HA SAID THAT AT THE TIME THE SOVIETS HAD SOME IDEA OF A CONCEPTUALIZED PLAN OF RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHTS BUT HE HAD NO IDEA OF ITS MAGNITUDE AS PRESENTED IN THE BBC PROGRAM. HE SAID THAT, AT THE TIME, THEIR MAIN CONCERN WAS THAT THE AMERICAN PLANES WERE CARRYING BOMBS, AND HE WAS PARTICULARLY STRUCK BY THE SECTION DEALING WITH RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHTS OVER MOSCOW ITSELF.

3. KOROTKOV SAID THAT HE HAD NO SPECIFIC INFORMATION ABOUT A KOREAN INTERROGATION CENTER LOCATED 13 MILES NORTHEAST OF PYONGYANG. HE SAID HE DEFINITELY PLAYED NO ROLE IN SUCH AN INTERROGATION CENTER AND COULD NOT RECALL ANY INTERROGATION CENTER BEING THAT CLOSE TO PYONGYANG. HE SAID THERE WERE SECOND ECHELON INTERROGATION CENTERS IN THE MOUNTAINS FURTHER AWAY AS WELL AS IN PYONGYANG ITSELF. HE EMPHASIZED THAT IF ANYONE KNEW ANYTHING ABOUT THE INTERROGATION CENTER IN QUESTION, IT WOULD BE COLONEL ALEKSANDR SEMYONOVICH ORLOV, KOROTKOV'S COLLEAGUE AND AN ACTIVE CO-WORKER ON THE JOINT COMMISSION. TFR WILL ASK ORLOV ABOUT THE INTERROGATION CENTER WHEN HE RETURNS FROM HIS DACHA IN LATE AUGUST.

4. KOROTKOV REAFFIRMED HIS FIRM CONVICTION THAT THE KGB CAPTURED AMERICAN SERVICEMEN AS THE RESULT OF COLD WAR SHOOTDOWNS AND KOREAN WAR POW SHOOTDOWNS. HE BELIEVES THAT GENERAL VOLKOGONOV FEELS THE SAME WAY BUT THAT VOLKOGONOV IS NOT IN A POLITICAL POSITION TO SAY IT OUTRIGHT. HE IS EQUALLY CONVINCED THAT THE DOCUMENTATION LIES SOMEWHERE IN THE VAST ARCHIVAL MATERIALS OF THE OLD KGB. HE SAID THAT SINCE THE KGB WAS REPRESENTED AT ALL LEVELS AND IN ALL ORGANIZATIONS, MILITARY AS WELL AS CIVILIAN, THEY WOULD HAVE BEEN THE FIRST TO GET THEIR HANDS ON ANY DOCUMENTS. UNFORTUNATELY, REORGANIZATION THROUGH THE YEARS AND PARTICULARLY IN RECENT YEARS HAS MADE IT VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO KNOW SPECIFICALLY WHERE TO LOOK FOR THIS DOCUMENTATION, THAT IS, THE PRECISE LOCATION OF ANY SUCH DOCUMENTS. KOROTKOV MENTIONED SPECIFICALLY THE CENTRAL KGB ARCHIVES AT YASENEVO, THE BORDER GUARD ARCHIVES IN THE FAR EAST, AND THE ARCHIVES OF THE PACIFIC FLEET AS POTENTIAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION.

5. KOROTKOV HASTENED TO ADD THAT NEITHER THE RUSSIAN SIDE OF THE COMMISSION AND VOLKOGONOV, NOR

KOROTKOV HIMSELF AS AN INSIDE RESEARCHER, HAD BEEN GIVEN DIRECT ACCESS TO ARCHIVAL MATERIALS INHERITED FROM THE OLD KGB AND HE DEEMED IT UNLIKELY SUCH ACCESS WILL BE GIVEN FOR MANY YEARS TO COME. HE SAID THE DOOR WAS CRACKED AFTER THE ATTEMPTED COUP IN THE FALL OF 1991, BUT HAD LONG SINCE SHUT TIGHTLY. STILL, HE FELT RESEARCHERS MUST CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR ACCESS TO BOTH CENTRAL ARCHIVES AND TO LOCAL ARCHIVES IN THE AREAS WHERE EVENTS TOOK PLACE.

6. COLONEL KOROTKOV THANKED TFR FOR THE

OPPORTUNITY TO WATCH THE PROGRAM AND FOR THE TRANSCRIPT. HE SAID HE WOULD BE HAPPY TO MEET WITH US AT ANY TIME IT WAS FELT HE COULD BE OF VALUE. TFR PLANS TO CONVERT THE VIDEO CASSETTE OF THE BBC PROGRAM TO PAL/SECAM FORMAT AND GIVE KOROTKOV A COPY.

7. TASK FORCE RUSSIA SENDS.

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