UNCLAS BEB/PMU/SU *** BEGIN MESSAGE 14 ***

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SERIAL: LD1001000392

COUNTRY: CIS

SUBJ: FURTHER ON KGB AGENT'S DENIAL OF U.S. POW INTERROGATION

REF: LD0901221192 MOSCOW TASS ENGLISH 092135 -- FORMER KGB AGENT

DENIES INTERROGATING U.S. POWS IN VIETNAM

SOURCE: MOSCOW RADIO MOSCOW WORLD SERVICE IN ENGLISH 2210 GMT

9 JAN 92

TEXT:

((TEXT)) AT A MOSCOW NEWS CONFERENCE, RETIRED KGB COLONEL CLEG NECHEPORENKO HAS DESCRIBED HIS CONVERSATION IN HANOI WITH AN AMERICAN PRISONER OF WAR IN 1973, AND TWO MEETINGS WITH LEE HARVEY OSWALD, WHO SHOT FRESIDENT JOHN KENNEDY SINGLEHANDED, ACCORDING TO WASHINGTON'S OFFICIAL VERSION.

AT THE NEWS CONFERENCE MR. NECHEPORENKO DENIED THE CLAIM OF HIS FORMER COLLEAGUE, RETIRED GENERAL OLEG KALUGIN, WHO SAID LAST WEEK THAT HIS MEN INTERROGATED AT LEAST THREE AMERICAN POW'S IN VIETNAM IN 1978, AND REFERRED TO NECHEPORENKO, WHO ALLEGEDLY WAS IN CHARGE OF THE INTERROGATION. THE RETIRED COLONEL TOLD JOURNALISTS THAT HE ARRIVED IN HANCI FOR THE FIRST TIME IN JANUARY, 1973.

((BEGIN NECHEPORENKO RECORDING IN RUSSIAN FADING TO SUPERIMPOSED TRANSLATION TO ENGLISH)) THERE WAS AN UNDERSTANDING THAT TOGETHER WITH MY VIETNAMESE COLLEAGUES, I WOULD MEET AN AMERICAN TAKEN PRISONER SEVERAL YEARS EARLIER DURING THE (DA NAT) OFFENSIVE, IF I AM NOT MISTAKEN. HE WAS KNOWN TO BE A MEMBER OF THE SOVIET SECTION OF THE CIA. IN VIETNAM HE WAS A STATIONARY CIA AGENT IN (DA NAT), I THINK. THE CONVERSATION LASTED FOR TWO OR TWO AND A HALF HOURS. THEN A BREAK WAS ANNOUNCED FOR LUNCH, BUT AFTER LUNCH THE VIETNAMESE SAID THAT THE PRISONER DID NOT WANT TO CONTINUE THE CONVERSATION.

I WAS IN HANOI ONCE MORE A YEAR LATER. FOR TWO WEEKS I WORKED ON THE RECORDS OF INTERROGATIONS OF AMERICAN POW'S BY THE VIETNAMESE SIDE. THERE WERE NO MORE CONTACTS BETWEEN THE SOVIET AND VIETNAMESE INTELLIGENCE ON THE ISSUE, NEITHER DID I HAVE ANY MORE MEETINGS WITH AMERICAN PRISONERS, AND I DON'T KNOW OF ANY MEETINGS OF OTHER KGB OFFICERS WITH AMERICAN PRISONERS IN VIETNAM. ((END RECORDING))

THE RETIRED SOVIET INTELLIGENCE OFFICER REAFFIRMED THAT IN SEPTEMBER 1963, OR ALMOST TWO MONTHS BEFORE THE DEATH OF JOHN KENNEDY, HE MET LEE HARVEY OSWALD IN MEXICO CITY. THERE WERE TWO MEETINGS AT THE CONSULATE OF THE SOVIET EMBASSY. ACCORDING TO NECHEPORENKO, THEY DISCUSSED THE POSSIBILITY OF GIVING OSWALD A VISA FOR HIS RETURN TO THE SOVIET UNION.

THE CONTENTS OF THESE CONVERSATIONS WITH OSWALD WILL SOON BE MADE PUBLIC IN MOSCOW, NECHEPORENKO SAID. HE FELT THAT THE PUBLICATION OF SUCH MATERIALS WILL ALLOW EXPERTS TO TAKE A NEW LOOK AT THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE ASSASSINATION OF THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT. (ENDALL) 092210 NEWLIN DNE40901.022/MC 10/0032Z JAN BT

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