

# U.S. STEPS UP PROBE OF MYSTERY PHOTO

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The U.S. government is stepping up its investigation of a photograph that purports to show three American fliers missing from the Vietnam War, sources said Monday.

The American sources said Assistant Secretary of State Kenneth Quinn will fly to Vietnam and Laos while a 10-man Defense Department team visiting Thailand investigates the photo, which was reportedly carried across the Thai border from Cambodia. The grainy photograph, obtained by the Pentagon in September 1990, shows three men and a sign with cryptic wording.

Quinn is to meet with officials in Hanoi and Vientiane, according to the sources.

A copy of the photograph was handed to Vietnam's delegation at the United Nations. All three Indochinese nations deny holding any American prisoners.

Meanwhile, a 25-member team of U.S. experts were in Vietnam to conduct the 14th joint MIA search with Vietnamese counterparts. A U.S. diplomat, who asked not to be identified, said the search was not linked to the photograph and had been scheduled at least two months earlier.