

TRANSFERRED TO THE PRISON AT THANH TRI (RO COMMENT - RO COULD NOT TELL IF THESE OFFICIALS ACTUALLY RECALLED THE INCIDENT OR WERE MERELY ENTERTAINING RO). CCOUNTERPART DUNG STATED HE WOULD SEARCH RECORDS OF THE MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS IN AN ATTEMPT TO ESTABLISH A CONFINEMENT CHRONOLOGY OF THE TWO, AS THE MATTER WOULD CERTAINLY BE A MOI AND POLICE MATTER. GIVEN THE CHRONOLOGY AS THE US KNOWS IT, DUNG STATED HE WOULD BEGIN WITH THE MOI/POLICE IN HO CHI MINH CITY.

6. WHEN ASKED ABOUT RECORDS, BOTH OFFICIALS CLAIMED THAT NO RECORDS OF ANY OF THE THREE CAPTIVES HAD EVER BEEN HELD LOCALLY AND COULD PROVIDE NO DIRECTION ON WHERE RECORDS OF THE THREE MIGHT CURRENTLY BE STORED. THE MAJOR INITIALLY STATED THAT THE RECORDS WOULD BE HELD BY THE ENEMY PROSELYTIZING DEPARTMENT (CUCJ DICHJ VAANJ), BUT HE WAS INTERRUPTED AND IMMEDIATELY CORRECTED BY THE COLONEL, WHO STATED THAT THE RECORDS WERE GONE AND NO ONE KNEW WHERE THEY WERE. THE OFFICIALS WERE QUERIED ON THE POSSIBILITY OF TRACKING DATES ON THE COTTON AND INGRAM INCIDENT BASED ON THE FINANCIAL RECORDS AND HANDLING OF THE FINE THEY PAID FOR RELEASE. THE COLONEL RESPONDED THAT IT WAS UNLIKELY TO PROVIDE ANY CLUES, AS THAT WOULD BE STRICTLY A FINANCIAL MATTER AND WOULD BE HANDLED AS SUCH.

7. THE INVESTIGATION GROUP WAS ALLOWED AN ESCORTED TOUR OF THE PRISON, TO INCLUDE THE FORMER DETENTION AREAS OF THE THREE AMERICANS. RO WAS ALLOWED TO ENTER ANY AREA HE EXPRESSED A DESIRE TO SEE. AFTER VISITING THE "ISLAND" AREA WHERE ARLC GAY WAS HELD (THE BUILDING HAS SINCE BEEN TORN DOWN), RO EXAMINED THE KHU B AREA WHERE IT WAS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED THAT REMAINS HAD BEEN STORED. THIS REPORTED AREA WAS JUST OVER A WALL LOCATED ON THE RIGHT AS ONE ENTERS THE KHU B COMPOUND. UPON ENTERING THE COMPOUND, IT WAS NOTED THAT IT NO LONGER HOLDS INMATES AND THAT BUILDINGS IN THE KHU ARE IN VARIOUS STAGES OF BEING TORN DOWN. THERE WAS A WALL TO THE RIGHT AS ONE ENTERS AND THERE WERE TREES NEXT TO THE WALL, BUT THE TREES WERE JACKFRUIT TREES AND NOT ALMOND OR PAPAYA TREES AS WAS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED. ALTHOUGH THE JACKFRUIT TREES WERE TALL ENOUGH, IT IS QUESTIONABLE WHETHER OR NOT THEY WERE STRONG ENOUGH TO SUPPORT A PERSON HIGH ENOUGH TO CLIMB OVER THE WALL. THE BUILDING IN QUESTION ALSO WAS OBVIOUS A CONFINEMENT BUILDING CONSISTING OF TWO CELLS OF TYPICAL DESIGN. THE CEILING WAS DOME-SHAPE AND IN ONE THE WALLS WERE STUCCO DESIGN EITHER TO PREVENT INMATES FROM WRITING ON THE WALLS, TO COVER UP INMATE WRITING ON THE WALLS, OR BOTH. BOTH CELLS WERE COMPARTMENTALIZED AND NEITHER HAD WINDOWS ON THE WALL SIDE WHERE IT WAS REPORTED THAT AN INMATE HAD LOOKED THROUGH AFTER CLIMBING THE TREES. NEITHER CELL HAD BEEN USED FOR A LONG TIME AND THE GENERAL AREA OF THEIR LOCATION WAS USED AS A CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS STORAGE SITE FOR

LUMBER, REBAR, AND THE LIKE.

COMMENTS: 1. DURING THE VISIT, RO CARRIED ALONG SKETCHES DRAWN BY FORMER INMATES OF THE PRISON, SOURCE OTS 1042-91 AND THE SOURCE OF JCRC REPORTS T85-103, T85-104, T85-237 AND T85-238. THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT THAT THE SKETCHES OF KHU B AS DRAWN BY THE SOURCE OF THE JCRC THAILAND REPORTS IS THE MORE ACCURATE OF THE TWO. THIS SOURCE (ALSO INTERVIEWED BY RO WHEN RO WAS ASSIGNED TO JCRC) DEPICTED THE STAIED BUILDING IN QUESTION EXACTLY AS IT WAS DURING RO'S VISIT TO THE CAMP. THE SKETCH OF KHU B AS DRAWN BY OTS 1042-91 IS NOT ACCURATE.

2. AS SOME REMAINS RETURNED BY THE VIETNAMESE HAVE SHOWN EVIDENCE OF CHARRING AFTER SKELTONIZATION, RO FIRST LOOKED FOR EVIDENCE OF ANY FIRS IN THE PRISON. NO EVIDENCE, CHARRING OF CONSTRUCTION, OR SMOKE DAMAGE

WAS FOUND. AFTER SEARCHING FOR EVIDENCE OF FIRE, RO ASKED THE PRISON OFFICIALS WHO AFFIRMED THAT THERE HAD NEVER BEEN A FIRE IN THE PRISON.

3. NEITHER OFFICIAL RECALLED THE PREVIOUSLY REPORTED NAMES OF FORMER PRISON CAMP COMMANDER MAJOR SANG OR HIS DEPUTY, FAVN CAPTAIN HANH BUT PROVIDED THE NAME QUYNH (QUYNH) AS HAVING BEEN A PREVIOUS PRISON COMMANDER.

4. ENROUTE TO THE PRISON, THE DRIVER TOOK A WRONG TURN TO THE NORTH FROM SUOI HAI LAKE. AFTER TRAVELLING A KILOMETER, RO POINTED THE ERROR OUT TO THE DRIVER. RO IS UNSURE IF THIS WAS A TEST TO SEE IF HE KNEW THE LOCATION OF THE PRISON, IF IT WAS AN HONEST MISTAKE, OR IF THE PURPOSE WAS TO SHOW THAT THEY THEMSELVES WERE NOT FAMILIAR WITH THE LOCATION OF THE PRISON.

5. THE TWO OFFICIALS EXPLAINED THAT THE MAJOR WAS THE PRISON COMMANDER IN CHARGE OF THE GUARD FORCE, LOGISTICS, AND ADMINISTRATION, WHILE THE COLONEL WAS THE CHIEF INVESTIGATOR IN CHARGE OF CONFINEMENT PROCEDURES AND INVESTIGATIONS.

6. RO BELIEVES THE SOURCE WHO ORIGINALLY REPORTED REMAINS STORAGE AT THE PRISON. HIS SKETCHES ARE ACCURATE AND HE WAS PROVEN RELIABLE THROUGH POLYGRAPH TESTING. THE SOURCE OF JCRC REPORT HK97-737 AND PK87-38 (ALSO INTERVIEWED BY RO) SEEMS TO BE LESS ACCURATE AND MAY BE HEARSAY ELABORATION OF THE OPINIONS OF THE ORIGINAL SOURCE. RO FEELS THERE WAS SOME EARLY REMAINS ACTIVITY TO INCLUDE AT LEAST STORAGE OF THE BOXES MADE BY THE PRISON BLACKSMITH IN THE PRISON. BASED ON THE RESULTS OF THIS INVESTIGATION, RO FEELS CONFIDENT THAT THERE ARE NOT NOW AND HAVE NOT BEEN FOR SOME TIME ANY REMAINS STORED AT THE PRISON.

7. RO FOUND NO EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THE ACCOUNT OF 60 TO 70 PRISONERS HELD BETWEEN 1973 AND 1978. SENIOR ANALYST CO-LOCATED AT THE OFFICE IN HANOI STATED HE WAS UNSURE AS TO WHY THIS CASE WAS NOMINATED. RECOMMEND THIS CASE A-007, AS WAS PROVIDED AND NOMINATED, BE CLOSED.

8. DURING THE INVESTIGATION, COUNTERPART DUNG MENTIONED THE CASE OF A BOAT NAMED OCEAN KING WHICH HE HAD HEARD HAD BEEN DETAINED BY THE VIETNAMESE AND WHICH HAD AN AMERICAN ON BOARD. HE HEARD THAT THE AMERICAN WAS ARRESTED AND CHARGED WITH SMUGGLING DRUGS SOMETIME IN 1980 BUT HAD BEEN RELEASED (NEI). THIS MAY RELATE TO THE ACCOUNT REPORTED IN JCRC REPORT HK85-031 WHICH INVOLVES A LIVE SIGHTING IN NAI HIEP DONG (NAI HIEEN DOONG) IN 1977.

//IISF: (U) PG 2430//.
//COMSOBJ:(U) 521//.
PROJ: (U) 6989-15.
COLL: (U) AC.

INST: (U) US - NO.
PREF: (U) 6-01599.
ACQ: (U) VIETNAM, HANOI MUNICIPALITY, BAI BAT MILITARY PRISON (920429).
DISSEM: (U) FIELD - AMEMBASSY BANGKOK (AMP, DCM, POL, SA, DATIC, EX/A, CJTF).
WARNING: (U) THIS REPORT UNCLASSIFIED.

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