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VZCZC

RR RUEKJCS RHEHAAA RUEKJCS RUEHC RUEKJCS RUHQHQB

RHHMCMY RUEAIIA RUHQHQE RUEHKL RUEHHK RUEHPF

RUMTFS RUHVAAA

IE RUEHBK #1814/01 323 \*\*

ZNR UUUUU

R 180901Z NOV 92

FM USDAO BANGKOK TH//PW-MIA//

TO RUEKJCS / DIA WASHINGTON DC//PW-MIA/DOF/DO-3/DO-MS/DOF-8// A:CDROBERTSON

INFO RHEHAAA / WHITEHOUSE WASHDC//NSC//

RUEKJCS / SECDEF WASHDC//OASD-ISA/PW-MIA//

RUEHC / SECSTATE WASHDC//EAP/VLC/EAP DAS QUINN//

RUEKJCS / SECDEF WASHDC//J5/JCS-PW-MIA//

RUHQHQB / USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI//J2/J233/J3/J36//

RHHMCMY / JICPAC HONOLULU HI//OTC/OBU//

RUEAIIA / CIA WASHDC//DDO/PCS/LCG/NIL/EA/ICOG POW//

RUHQHQE / CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI

RUEHKL / USDAO KUALA LUMPUR//SB//

RUEHHK / USDLO HONG KONG//PW-MIA//

RUEHPF / USMISSION PHNOM PENH//JTF-FA DET 4//

RUMTFS / AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE//JTF-FA DET 3//

RUHVAAA / CDRUSACILHI HICKAM AFB HI//TAPC-PED-R//

BT

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 BANGKOK TH 51814

THIS IS A STONY BEACH MESSAGE

SERIAL: IIR 6 024 0105 93.

COUNTRY: VIETNAM (VM).

SUBJECT: IIR 6 024 0105 93/RESULTS OF LIVE SIGHTING  
INVESTIGATION, CASE A-00LB, CAO BANG, VIETNAMWARNING: THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT  
- FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE. REPORT IS  
- UNCLASSIFIED.-----  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
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FOI: 700000-790000.

RFQS: D-VOP-42223.

SOURCE: //OTS 6-024-5056-93//OFFICIALS AND RESIDENTS  
OF CAO BANG PROVINCE, VM. SOURCE RELIABILITY HAS NOT  
BEEN ESTABLISHED.SUMMARY: THIS IS A STONY BEACH REPORT. IT PROVIDES  
INFORMATION ON AN ADVANCE-NOTICE LIVE SIGHTING  
REINVESTIGATION CONDUCTED IN CAO BANG PROVINCE.TEXT: 1. CASE SUMMARY AS PRESENTED TO LIVE SIGHTING  
INVESTIGATOR (LSI): ORIGINAL SOURCE REPORTED

INFORMATION CONCERNING A POSSIBLE POW CAMP LOCATED IN THE VICINITY OF THE CHINESE/VIETNAMESE BORDER NEAR CAO BANG, APPROX 50-100 KM FROM THE CHINESE BORDER. REPORTEDLY, THE CAMP WAS LOCATED IN A HEAVILY FORESTED, MOUNTAINOUS AREA WHICH IS HIGHLY CONTROLLED AS THERE IS A RESTRICTION OF 50 KM SURROUNDING THE CAMP. ALTHOUGH RESTRICTED, THE GENERAL POPULATION KNOWS OF THIS SPECIAL AREA. ALL MATERIALS DESTINED FROM THE CAMP ARRIVE BY TRUCK AND ARE TRANSFERRED FROM POINT TO POINT. SOURCE, WHO LEFT VIETNAM IN THE LATE 1970'S, CLAIMS THAT SOVIETS ROAMED THROUGHOUT THE AREA. SOURCE HYPOTHESIZES THAT INMATES FROM THIS CAMP WERE MOVED FURTHER SOUTH AFTER THE INVASION OF VIETNAM BY CHINA IN THE LATE 1970'S. SOURCE ALSO MENTIONED THAT A POSSIBLE SECOND CAMP WAS LOCATED WEST OF HANOI NEAR SON LA; HOWEVER, NO DETAILS WERE PROVIDED.

2. INTRODUCTION. CASE A-001 HAD BEEN THE SUBJECT OF A PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION ON 9 APR 92. DURING AUG 92 LIVE SIGHTING INVESTIGATOR (LSI) RECEIVED TASKING TO REINVESTIGATE A NUMBER OF LIVE SIGHTING CASES, TO INCLUDE CASE A-001. SPECIFICALLY, LSI WAS TASKED TO RETURN TO THE LUONG LANG FORMER POW CAMP AREA (DOGPATCH) LOC VICINITY //GEO COORD 222827N 1062440E// TO FURTHER INVESTIGATE ALLEGED LIVE SIGHTINGS OF AMERICANS IN THIS AREA. LSI WAS INSTRUCTED TO CANVAS THE LOCAL POPULACE FOR ANY INFORMATION ABOUT AMERICANS IN CAPTIVITY OR LIVING FREELY AFTER HOMECOMING. ON 12 OCT 92 LSI SENT A MEMO TO THE VIETNAM OFFICE FOR SEEKING MISSING PERSONS (VNOSMP) AND PROPOSED A REINVESTIGATION OF CASE A-001. LSI SUGGESTED THAT THE INVESTIGATION COMMENCE ON 19 OCT 92 AND STATED THAT HE WISHED TO RETURN TO CAO BANG PROVINCE TO REINVESTIGATE CASE A-001. ON 16 OCT 92 LSI WAS INFORMED BY HIS COUNTERPART IN THE VNOSMP, MR. PHAM DUNG, THAT THE INVESTIGATION WOULD COMMENCE ON 20 OCT 92.

3. ON 20 OCT 92, LSI DEPARTED HANOI ACCOMPANIED BY VNOSMP REPRESENTATIVES MR. PHAM DUNG, MR. THAN AND DRIVER MR. TOA. THE GROUP PROCEEDED BY VEHICLE TO CAO BANG TOWN LOC VIC //UTM COORDS 48QXL290060/MAP SERIES L7014; 1:50,000; SHEET 6254II, CAO BANG; AMS 1965//. TOTAL TRAVEL TIME BY CAR WAS APPROX TEN HOURS. UPON ARRIVAL, THE GROUP OVERNIGHTED IN THE CAO BANG PROVINCE GUEST HOUSE. ON 21 OCT 92 THE GROUP MET WITH MR. DOAN VAN MINH, A CADRE FROM THE PEOPLE'S

COMMITTEE, CAO BANG PROVINCE AND MR. THAN QUANG HUY FROM THE CAO BANG PROVINCE IMMIGRATION OFFICE. MR. MINH AND MR. HUY ARRIVED AN HOUR LATE FOR THE SCHEDULED MEETING. MR. MINH APOLOGIZED FOR THEIR TARDINESS AND STATED THAT HE WAS VERY BUSY WITH PROVINCE BUSINESS. HE THEN ASKED THE PURPOSE OF THE INVESTIGATION. LSI INFORMED MR. MINH THAT HE WISHED TO RETURN TO THE SITE OF THE FORMER POW CAMP, LANG LUONG, AND ASK FURTHER QUESTIONS OF THE POPULACE IN THE SURROUNDING AREA. IN A LENGTHY STATEMENT, MR. MINH RESPONDED THAT A LOT OF AMERICAN PILOTS WERE INTERNED AT THE FORMER PRISON CAMP. HE STATED, HOWEVER, THAT THESE PRISONERS RECEIVED EXCELLENT TREATMENT DURING THE TENURE OF THEIR CONFINEMENT. MR. MINH INDICATED THAT THE PRISONERS WERE ALL RELOCATED TO HANOI IN 730100 TO AWAIT RELEASE. HE ASSERTED THAT NO AMERICANS WERE LIVING EITHER CAPTIVE OR FREELY IN CAO BANG PROVINCE AND STATED THAT LSI HAD COMPLETE FREEDOM TO GO ANYWHERE IN THE PROVINCE TO VERIFY THIS STATEMENT. MR. MINH STATED THAT MR. HUY WOULD ACCOMPANY THE GROUP DURING THE COURSE OF THEIR INVESTIGATION. AFTER APPROX 15 MINUTES, MR. MINH STATED THAT HE WAS VERY BUSY AND HAD TO LEAVE. IMMEDIATELY AFTER MR. MINH'S DEPARTURE, THE GROUP PROCEEDED BY VEHICLE TO THE SITE OF THE FORMER POW CAMP (AKA DOGPATCH) LOCATED VIC BO GIUONG HAMLET //UTM COORDS 48QJK4516585806/MAP SERIES L7014; 1:50,000; SHEET 62531, THAT KHE; AMS 1967//, VAN TRINH VILLAGE, THACH AN DISTRICT, CAO BANG PROVINCE. (LSI COMMENT - COORDINATES VERIFIED BY MEANS OF PORTABLE GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEM).

4. UPON ARRIVAL AT BO GIUONG HAMLET, THE GROUP DISCOVERED THAT NO ONE WAS THERE TO MEET THEM. AFTER CONDUCTING AN UNACCOMPANIED TOUR OF THE REMNANTS OF THE FORMER CAMP BUILDINGS FOR ABOUT AN HOUR, THE GROUP WAS JOINED BY THE HAMLET CHIEF, MR. DINH VAN CAN. LSI INFORMED MR. CAN OF THE DETAILS OF THE INVESTIGATION AND ASKED PERMISSION TO INTERVIEW PEOPLE LIVING IN THE IMMEDIATE AREA. MR. CAN STATED THAT THE LSI WHO HAD ORIGINALLY INVESTIGATED THE CASE HAD QUESTIONED THE LOCAL INHABITANTS. HOWEVER, MR. CAN READILY AGREED THAT THE PRESENT LSI COULD PROCEED. MR. CAN INDICATED THAT MOST OF THE LOCAL RESIDENTS WERE AT THE MARKET, LOCATED A FEW KM FROM THE HAMLET. NONETHELESS, LSI INTERVIEWED ALL THOSE PRESENT IN BO GIUONG HAMLET, INCLUDING A MAN WHO CLAIMED TO HAVE WORKED IN THE FORMER POW CAMP. HE STATED THAT HE WAS A FORMER PAVN OFFICER WHOSE DUTIES WERE TO BRING FOOD TO THE PRISONERS AND ORGANIZE RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES, SUCH AS VOLLEYBALL GAMES. (LSI COMMENT - BECAUSE OF HIS BASIC FLUENCY IN ENGLISH AND VERY NERVOUS DEMEANOR DURING LSI INTERVIEW, LSI SURMISES THAT THIS INDIVIDUAL MAY HAVE WORKED AS AN INTERROGATOR IN THE POW CAMP.) FOLLOWING THESE INTERVIEWS, MANY OF THE LOCAL RESIDENTS BEGAN RETURNING TO THE HAMLET AND WERE INTERVIEWED BY THE LSI. LSI THEN TRAVELED BY CAR IN

THE DIRECTION OF THE MARKET SINCE SEVERAL SMALL HAMLETS COULD BE ENCOUNTERED ALONG THE WAY. LSI STOPPED THE VEHICLE AND INTERVIEWED A WIDE CROSS SECTION OF INDIVIDUALS LIVING IN THE AREA.

5. DURING THE COURSE OF THE INVESTIGATION, LSI WAS ABLE TO DETERMINE THAT LONG TERM RESIDENTS WERE AWARE OF THE PRESENCE OF THE FORMER POW CAMP. HOWEVER, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE FORMER PAVN OFFICER CITED IN PARAGRAPH 4 ABOVE, NONE ADMITTED ANY CONTACT WITH THE FORMER AMERICAN POW'S. NONE OF THE INDIVIDUALS INTERVIEWED PROFESSED ANY KNOWLEDGE, NOW OR IN THE PAST, OF ANY OTHER DETENTION FACILITY IN THE AREA. ALL OF THESE INDIVIDUALS DENIED KNOWLEDGE OF ANY SECRET FACILITY, RESTRICTED AREA OR SPECIAL ZONE ANYWHERE IN CAO BANG PROVINCE. ADDITIONALLY, ALL INDIVIDUALS DENIED KNOWLEDGE OF ANYONE OTHER THAN ETHNIC VIETNAMESE AND MINORITIES LIVING WITHIN CAO BANG PROVINCE. ALL INDIVIDUALS DENIED ANY KNOWLEDGE OF ANY WESTERNERS, CAUCASIAN OR BLACK, HAVING BEEN

UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 03 BANGKOK TH 51814

SEEN OR HEARD OF IN THE AREA SINCE THE AMERICAN POW'S DEPARTED IN EARLY 1973. FINALLY, ALL INDIVIDUALS DENIED KNOWLEDGE NOW OR IN THE PAST OF ANY SOVIET TROOPS IN THE AREA. FOLLOWING THESE INTERVIEWS, LSI TERMINATED THE INVESTIGATION. ON 22 OCT 92 THE GROUP RETURNED TO HANOI.

COMMENTS: 1. LSI COMMENT - THE LOCAL POPULATION IS COMPOSED PRIMARILY OF THE TAY MINORITY GROUP. THESE PEOPLE ARE VERY FRIENDLY AND APPROACHABLE. THEY DISPLAYED NO HESITATION IN COMING FORWARD TO SPEAK WITH THE LSI. LSI CONSIDERS IT VERY SIGNIFICANT THAT IN SEVERAL INSTANCES VNOSMP ESCORTS REMAINED IN THE VEHICLE WITH WINDOWS CLOSED AND ENGINE RUNNING WHILE LSI STEPPED OUT OF THE CAR TO INTERVIEW PASSERSBY AND FIELD WORKERS OUT OF HEARING RANGE OF HIS ESCORTS. THIS IS THE FIRST SUCH OCCASION THAT LSI WAS GIVEN THE FREEDOM TO INTERVIEW INDIVIDUALS WITHOUT CLOSE SCRUTINY OF HIS ESCORTS.

2. RECOMMEND NO FURTHER INVESTIGATION OF THIS CASE.

PG 2430//.

//COMSOBJ: 521//.

PROJ: 6999-15.

COLL: AC.

INSTR: US - NO.

PREP: 6-01701.

ACQ: VIETNAM, BO GIUONG HAMLET, VAN TRINH

VILLAGE, THACH AN DISTRICT, CAO BANG

PROVINCE, (921021).

DISSEM: FIELD - AMEMBASSY BANGKOK (AMB, DCM,

POL, SA, DATLO, EX/A, CJTF).

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#1814

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