

VZCZCBT0858  
 RR RUEHBT  
 DE RUHQSGG #9595 1821812  
 ZNR UUUUU  
 R 011812Z JUL 93 ZYB  
 FM CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI//J2//  
 TO RUEACNP/BUPERS WASHINGTON DC//PERS-663P//  
 INFO RHEHNSC/WHITE HOUSE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASH DC  
 RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC//OASD-ISA/PW-MIA//  
 RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC//CA/OCS/CCS/EAP/VLC//  
 RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC//OCJCS/J5/PW-MIA/J3-JOD//  
 RUHQHQB/USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI//J3/J30-M//  
 RUEKJCS/USCINCPAC LO WASHINGTON DC  
 RUEKJCS/DIA WASHINGTON DC//PW-MIA//  
 RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC//DEA/SEA/IB/DDO/EA/ICOG//  
 RUEHBT/CJTFFA DET ONE BANGOK TH  
 RUHVAAA/CDRUSACILHI HICKAM AFB HI//TAP-PED-H//  
 BT  
 UNCLAS //N0360//  
 SECTION 02 OF 03  
 DIA PASS TO DOD POW-MIA CENTRAL DOCUMENTATION OFFICE//  
 MSGID/SYS.RRM/CDR JTF-FA/J2//  
 RMKS/  
 ONLY BEGINNING TO LIFT. EXCEPT FOR THE HAZE, THE SKY WAS OTHERWISE

PAGE 02 RUHQSGG9595 UNCLAS  
 CLOUDLESS. CRS TOOK COMPASS BEARINGS FROM THE EXCAVATION SITE TO AN 888-METER PEAK AND A 724-METER PEAK WHICH WERE CONSISTENT WITH THE GRID COORDINATES ESTABLISHED BY THE PREVIOUS RECOVERY TEAM TO BE WH437841. DUE TO THE COMBINATION OF DENSE FOLIAGE AND HAZE, CRS COULD NOT ACQUIRE A COMPASS BEARING ON A THIRD PROMINENT LANDMARK FROM THE EXCAVATION SITE BUT HAD TO MOVE APPROXIMATELY AN ADDITIONAL 40 METERS UPHILL IN ORDER TO TAKE A COMPASS BEARING ON A 969-METER HILL. THIS THIRD COMPASS BEARING ALSO SUPPORTED THE LOCATION OF THE EXCAVATION SITE BEING NEAR WH437841. CRS VIDEOTAPED AND PHOTOGRAPHED THE EXCAVATION SITE, AND DISCUSSED THE LOSS INCIDENT WITH MR. HOP. CRS BRIEFED MR. HOP ON THE TEAM'S CURRENT LOCATION AS DEPICTED ON THE 1:50,000 MAP (SHEET 6050-II, SERIES L7014) AND ASKED FOR ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION HE MIGHT BE ABLE TO PROVIDE.

F. MR. HOP (37-YOA) SAID THAT HE WAS ONLY ABOUT TEN YEARS OF AGE AT THE TIME OF THE INCIDENT, BUT THAT HE AND MANY OTHER YOUNGSTERS IN THE VILLAGE HAD HEARD ABOUT THE CAPTURE OF AN AMERICAN PILOT. IT WAS A FEW DAYS AFTER THE CAPTURE OF THIS FIRST AMERICAN PILOT BEFORE HE HEARD ABOUT THE DEATH OF A SECOND AMERICAN. OUT OF CURIOSITY, HE AND A GROUP OF OTHER YOUNGSTERS FROM THE

PAGE 03 RUHQSGG9595 UNCLAS  
 VILLAGE GATHERED AND WENT TO THE SITE WHERE THE AMERICAN HAD BEEN KILLED. ACCORDING TO MR. HOP, SINCE THAT DAY, THE DIFFERENT FATES OF THE TWO AMERICANS (I.E., ONE PILOT CAPTURED AND ONE PILOT KILLED) HAS BEEN COMMON KNOWLEDGE THROUGHOUT THE VILLAGE. MR. HOP POINTED OUT THAT THE SITE WHERE THE SECOND AMERICAN WAS KILLED WAS WELL KNOWN TO A VERY LARGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN THE VILLAGE. MR. HOP SAID THAT SINCE THE TIME OF THE INCIDENT, DUE TO HIS PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE OF THE LOCATION OF THE INCIDENT, THIS WAS THE SEVENTH TIME THAT HE HAD LED A GROUP OF PEOPLE TO THE SITE. MR. HOP SAID THAT THE SEVEN GROUPS INCLUDED BOTH UNILATERAL AND BILATERAL EFFORTS. MR. HOP SAID THAT WHILE THE SITE WAS SOMEWHAT DIFFICULT TO REACH, IT WAS VERY SIMPLE TO PINPOINT ONCE YOU REACHED THE VICINITY. MR. HOP THEN POINTED OUT THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE INCIDENT SITE TO THE PEAK OF DONG DANH MOUNTAIN. MR. HOP INDICATED THAT DONG DANH MOUNTAIN WAS THE 888-METER PEAK ON THE MAP USED BY CRS TO FIX THE LOCATION OF THE SITE. MR. HOP SAID THAT AS FAR AS HE KNEW, THE MOUNTAIN HAD ALWAYS BEEN CALLED DONG DANH MOUNTAIN AND THAT DONG DANH HAMLET TOOK ITS NAME FROM THE MOUNTAIN. MR. HOP WENT ON TO DESCRIBE THE INCIDENT LOCATION AT THE EDGE OF THE SMALL BASIN BELOW THE PEAK OF DONG DANH MOUNTAIN AND HOW HE HAD BEEN ABLE

PAGE 04 RUHQSGG9595 UNCLAS

TO REMEMBER THE LOCATION SINCE THE TIME OF THE INCIDENT. MR. HOP ALSO SAID THAT THE LOCATION WAS COMMON KNOWLEDGE FOR THE INHABITANTS OF DONG DANH VILLAGE AND WAS GENERALLY KNOWN THROUGHOUT THUONG TIEN VILLAGE. MR. HOP THEN DREW A ROUGH OUTLINE OF THE TERRITORIAL BOUNDARIES OF THUONG TIEN VILLAGE ON THE MAP USED BY CRS. (OUTLINE MAP OF THUONG TIEN VILLAGE WILL BE FORWARDED SEPARATELY). MR. SAID HE WAS ABLE TO DRAW THE ROUGH OUTLINE OF THE VILLAGE BOUNDARIES BY REFERRING TO HIGHPOINTS ON THE MAP. WHEN ASKED AGAIN BY CRS, MR. HOP SAID THAT HE WAS ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN THAT NO U.S. AIRCRAFT HAD EVER BEEN DOWNED WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THUONG TIEN VILLAGE. MR. HOP ALSO ADDED THAT AT THE TIME OF THE INCIDENT, THE SUMMER "LAO WINDS" WERE ALREADY IN EFFECT. "LAO WINDS" ARE THE TERM FOR THE HOT SUMMER WINDS BLOWING FROM WEST TO EAST (FROM LAOS). ACCORDING TO MR. HOP, THE TWO PILOTS MUST HAVE EJECTED OVER A POINT DUE WEST OF DONG DANH MOUNTAIN AND DRIFTED EASTWARD. MR. HOP SAID THAT THERE WAS NO ACCURATE MEANS FOR HIM TO SPECULATE WHERE THE AIRCRAFT IN THIS INCIDENT MIGHT HAVE CRASHED.

G. PRIOR TO DEPARTING THE AREA, CRS EXAMINED THE EXCAVATION SITE. SINCE THE EXCAVATION IN MAY 1992, THE AREA HAS BECOME COMPLETELY OVERGROWN WITH TALL NATIVE GRASS. EXCEPT FOR THE FACT

PAGE 05 RUHQSGG9595 UNCLAS

THAT THE GROUND IS COMPLETELY CLEAR OF UNDERGROWTH, THE EXCAVATION SITE IS INDISTINGUISHABLE FROM THE SURROUNDING TERRAIN. THE SITE, ON A STEEP SLOPE (NEARLY 60 DEGREES) AND BENEATH A SIGNIFICANT WATERSHED ON THE SLOPE OF DONG DANH MOUNTAIN, EXHIBITED SIGNS OF SIGNIFICANT RECENT EROSION. CRS CONDUCTED A CURSORY SURFACE SEARCH OF THE AREA BUT FOUND NO MATERIAL EVIDENCE AT THE SITE.

H. THE TEAM RETURNED TO THE LANDING ZONE FROM THE EXCAVATION SITE. BY THE TIME THE TEAM ARRIVED AT THE LANDING ZONE, THE FOG HAD CLEARED, AND THE HAZE HAD LESSENERED SOMEWHAT. ENOUGH HAZE REMAINED TO CLEARLY DEFINE WHAT WOULD APPEAR AS A "U-SHAPED VALLEY" FROM THE AIR. CRS VIDEOTAPED AND PHOTOGRAPHED THE FEATURES WHICH DEFINE THE "U-SHAPED VALLEY." (THE VIDEOTAPE AND PHOTOGRAPHS WILL BE FORWARDED SEPARATELY.) COMPASS BEARING FROM THE LANDING ZONE TO DONG DANH MOUNTAIN AND THE 969-METER PEAK SUPPORTED A DETERMINATION THAT THE LANDING ZONE IS LOCATED IN THE VICINITY OF WH442B32. DOI THOI MOUNTAIN WAS NOT VISIBLE FROM THE LANDING ZONE. NO OTHER PROMINENT LANDMARKS WERE CLEARLY VISIBLE; HOWEVER, OTHER CLOSER, MINOR PEAKS AND RIDGES WERE CONSISTENT WITH DETAILS ON THE 1:50,000 MAP SHEET. SPECIFICALLY DUE TO THE HAZE, THE "U-SHAPED VALLEY" WAS CLEARLY DEFINED. ON THE RETURN TREK TO THE LOCATION WHERE THE

PAGE 06 RUHQSGG9595 UNCLAS

VEHICLES WERE PARKED, THE BASE OF THE "U" COULD BE CLEARLY SEEN FROM A TRAIL VISTA LOCATED IN THE VICINITY OF WH453B32. CRS ALSO VIDEOTAPED THIS VIEW.

I. AT 1600 HOURS ON 3 APR 93, WITH NO NEW LEADS AND NO NEW WITNESSES, THE MEMBERS OF THE JOINT TEAM AGREED TO DISCONTINUE THIS INVESTIGATIVE EFFORT. BOTH THE US AND SRV SIDES AGREED TO CONTINUE TO LOOK FOR POTENTIAL WITNESSES OR LEADS. CRS AGAIN ASKED THAT PROVINCE OFFICIALS CONDUCT A SEARCH FOR THE CRASH SITE LOCATION OF THE ASSOCIATED AIRCRAFT IN HOA BINH PROVINCE.

4. MATERIAL EVIDENCE: NONE.

5. SURVEY RESULTS: THE AREA EXCAVATED BY THE JOINT EXCAVATION TEAM IN MAY 92 LIES ON A SLOPE OF NEARLY 60 DEGREES AND LIES IN THE PATH OF A LARGE WATERSHED OF THE DONG DANH MOUNTAIN PEAK (AN 888-METER PEAK LOCATED VICINITY OF COORDINATES WH437B37). IN THE MONTHS SINCE THE EXCAVATION, THE EXCAVATED AREA HAS BECOME COMPLETELY OVERGROWN WITH INDIGENOUS TALL GRASSES OF MORE THAN SIX FEET IN HEIGHT. EXCEPT FOR THE ABSENCE OF UNDERGROWTH, WHICH WAS CLEARED AWAY BY THE EXCAVATION EFFORT, THE AREA IS VIRTUALLY INDISTINGUISHABLE FROM OTHER SURROUNDING VEGETATION.

//

BT

#9595