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RR RUEHBT
DE RUHQSGG #0715 2310012
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R 190012Z AUG 93 ZYB

FM CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI//J2//

TO RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC//USDP:RSA/DPMO-RA/DPMO-RA//

INFO RHEHNSC/WHITE HOUSE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASH DC//

RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC//CA/EAP/VLC/CCS/OCS//

RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC//OCJCS/J5/PW-MIA/J3-368//

RUHQHQB/USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI//J3/J30-M//

RUEKJCS/USCINCPAC LO WASHINGTON DC

RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC//DEA/SEA/IB/DDO/EA/ICOG//

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

RUEHBT/USDAO BANGKOK TH//PW-MIA//

RUEHBT/CJTFFA DET ONE BANGKOK TH

BT

UNCLAS //N03460//

SECTION 01 OF 02

MSGID/GENADMIN/CDR JTF-FA/J223//

SUBJ/INTERVIEW OF REQUESTED SOURCE, DINH PHUC HAI//

REF/A/FAX/DET 2/10JUL93//

AMPN/SUBJ: LIST OF PERSONS FOR INTERVIEW, ENTRY NUMBER 31 OF 83//

RMKS/1. BACKGROUND. ON 5 JULY 1993, A JOINT U.S./VIETNAM ORAL

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HISTORY PROGRAM INTERVIEW TEAM INTERVIEWED BRIGADIER GENERAL (BG) DINH PHUC HAI, AN APPROXIMATELY 65 YEAR OLD HANOI RESIDENT. TOG HAI IS A FORMER AIR DEFENSE FORCE (ADF) OFFICER AND SENIOR EDITOR OF THE AIR AND AIR DEFENSE FORCE MEMOIRS. THE TEAM MET AT THE ANTE-BUILDING MEETING ROOM OF THE GOVERNMENT GUEST HOUSE, NUMBER 2 LE THACH STREET, HOAN KIEM DISTRICT, HANOI, TO INTERVIEW BG HAI, LISTED IN REFERENCE AS A POTENTIAL SOURCE OF INFORMATION CONCERNING U.S. PERSONNEL MISSING IN ACTION (MIA) IN VIETNAM. THE U.S. CONTINGENT CONSISTED OF MR. KEITH GARY FLANAGAN, DET 2, JOINT TASK FORCE-FULL ACCOUNTING (JTF-FA) CASUALTY RESOLUTION SPECIALIST; TSGT RONALD D. WARD, JTF-FA ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM COORDINATOR; AND PO2 JOHN HARVEY, JTF-FA ANALYST/LINGUIST. THE VIETNAMESE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT CONTINGENT CONSISTED OF MR. TRINH QUOC KHANH, MINISTRY OF INTERIOR; AND A HANOI PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE. BG HAI HAD NOT BEEN INTERVIEWED BY A JOINT TEAM BEFORE.

2. SUMMARY. THE SOURCE, BG DINH PHUC HAI, PROVIDED NO INFORMATION CONCERNING U.S. PERSONNEL MISSING IN ACTION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. HE SUMMARIZED HIS MILITARY CAREER IN THE ADF AND HIS ROLE AS SENIOR EDITOR FOR THE AIR AND THE AIR DEFENSE FORCE

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MEMOIRS. BASED ON HIS EXPERIENCE IN THE VIETNAMESE MIA PROBLEM, HE OFFERED HIS IDEAS ON HOW BEST TO PURSUE THE SEARCH FOR U.S. PERSONNEL MIA. THE SOURCE CLAIMED NO KNOWLEDGE OF U.S.

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| | ACTION | INFO |
|--------------------------|--------|------|
| PW-MIA JTF | | |
| CC | | |
| RD// DC CD 68// | | |
| OPS | | |
| LOG | | |
| ADMIN | | |
| FILE | | |

PERSONNEL, LIVING FREELY OF AGAINST THEIR WILL, IN VIETNAM SINCE 1973.

3. DETAILS.

A. AFTER FORMAL INTRODUCTIONS, MR. TRINH QUOC KHANH EXPLAINED THE JOINT TEAM'S MISSION AND MR. FLANAGAN BEGAN THE INTERVIEW WITH THE FOLLOWING TWO KEY QUESTIONS:

(1) SINCE 1973, HAVE YOU EVER SEEN OR HAD KNOWLEDGE OF U.S. PRISONERS OF WAR (PW) CAPTIVE IN VIETNAM? BG HAI REPLIED THAT HE HAD NOT. HE BELIEVED THAT AFTER THE PARIS PEACE ACCORDS, DURING OPERATION HOMECOMING, THE VIETNAM GOVERNMENT RETURNED ALL AMERICAN PRISONERS TO U.S. CONTROL.

(2) SINCE 1973, HAVE YOU EVER SEEN OR HAD KNOWLEDGE OF AMERICAN "STAY-BEHINDS" IN VIETNAM? BG HAI REPLIED THAT HE HAD NOT.

B. BG HAI BEGAN BY RELATING THAT, PRIOR TO BEGINNING WORK ON THE AIR AND THE AIR DEFENSE MEMOIRS, HE WAS A PARATROOPER (NFI). BEGINNING IN 1965, HE WORKED AS SENIOR EDITOR FOR THE BOOK. IN

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THE SPRING OF 1967, HE TRANSFERRED TO THE 23RD ANTI-AIRCRAFT ARTILLERY REGIMENT (REGT) (AKA TRAN PHU (TRAAN PHUS) REGT) IN HAI DUONG (XJ385155) AS A FIELD GRADE POLITICAL OFFICER. THE 23RD REGT'S PRIMARY MISSION AT THAT TIME WAS TO DEFEND LAI VU BRIDGE (VIC XJ447195) AND PHU LUONG BRIDGE (VIC XJ413162) ON NATIONAL ROUTE 5. IN NOVEMBER 1968, BG HAI WENT TO HANOI TO SERVE WITH THE 236TH ADF REGT, THEN MOVED TO QUANG TRI FOR DUTY WITH THE 363B ADF DIVISION (DIV). DURING "THE SECOND PHASE OF THE WAR", WHEN U.S. AIR STRIKES BEGAN IN QUANG BINH, HE TRANSFERRED TO THE 363A ADF DIV IN HAI PHONG.

C. DURING HIS TIME AS AN ADF OFFICER, BG HAI CLAIMED NEVER TO HAVE COME IN DIRECT CONTACT WITH ANY U.S. PW'S. ALTHOUGH HIS UNITS DID SHOOT DOWN U.S. AIRCRAFT DURING THE WAR, MOSTLY U.S. NAVY FIGHTERS INGRESSING FROM THE SOUTH CHINA SEA, HE SAID THE PLANES CRASHED TOO FAR AWAY FROM THE ADF UNITS TO BE SURE OF THE DOWNED PILOT'S FATE. THE UNITS TO WHICH HE WAS ASSIGNED, HE SAID, KEPT NO RECORDS CONCERNING U.S. PW'S OR DOWNED PILOTS. THE ONLY INFORMATION BG HAI KNEW CONCERNING U.S. PW'S OR DOWNED PILOTS WAS BASED ON HEARSAY AND, SINCE THE SHOOTDOWNS OCCURRED IN MOST CASES 20 YEARS OR MORE AGO, HE CLAIMED NO DETAILS FROM THIS

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HEARSAY. THE SOURCE SAID HE DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE BATTLE OF HAM RONG, NOR WAS HE AWARE OF CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING ANY U.S. AIRCRAFT SHOT DOWN THERE.

D. BETWEEN 1965 AND 1967, BG HAI WAS SENIOR EDITOR FOR THE AIR AND THE AIR DEFENSE FORCE MEMOIRS. HE SAID HE PROVIDED EDITING SKILLS EXCLUSIVELY AND WAS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR CHOOSING CONTENT, WHICH WAS BASED ON VIETNAMESE NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES. DURING HIS WORK ON THE BOOK, HE CLAIMED NEVER TO HAVE DEALT WITH PRISONER RECORDS, INCLUDING PW INTERROGATION DOCUMENTS.

E. BASED ON HIS EXPERIENCES SEARCHING FOR MISSING VIETNAMESE

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PERSONNEL, SOME LOST IN LAOS, BG HAI RELATED THAT MIA ACCOUNTING OPERATIONS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA ARE AN EXTREMELY DIFFICULT BUSINESS. THE TIME LAPSE SINCE THE AMERICAN LOSSES IN THE REGION, COMPOUNDED BY EXTREME SEASONAL WEATHER CONDITIONS AND FREQUENT FLOODING, HAI STATED, MAKE THE PROBLEM DOUBLY DIFFICULT. HE HAD HEARD THAT THE U.S. WAS WILLING TO BEGIN ASSISTING VIETNAM IN ITS SEARCH FOR VIETNAMESE PERSONNEL. IN HIS OPINION, THIS INITIATIVE WOULD LIKELY PRODUCE GREATER RESULTS BY GAINING THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE'S SUPPORT. IN CLOSING, BG HAI SAID THAT AMERICANS WITH EXPERIENCE IN VIETNAM, ESPECIALLY TRAVELLERS WHO HAD VISITED

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SINCE THE WAR AND VIETNAMESE SPEAKERS, WOULD HAVE A GREATER UNDERSTANDING OF THE CURRENT SITUATION IN VIETNAM. THESE TYPE INDIVIDUALS, OF WHOM HAI HOPED THERE WOULD BE MORE IN THE FUTURE, WOULD BELIEVE THE VIETNAM GOVERNMENT IS DOING EVERYTHING IT CAN TO COOPERATE IN THE U.S. PW/MIA SEARCH, AND THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS CERTAINLY NOT HOLDING NOR DOES IT HAVE KNOWLEDGE OF LIVE PW'S OR STAY BEHIND PERSONNEL IN VIETNAM.

F. WITH NO FURTHER QUESTIONS FOR BG HAI, THE JOINT TEAM AGREED TO CONCLUDE THE INTERVIEW.

CORRELATIONS TO EXISTING POW/MIA CASES. NONE.
POTENTIAL LEADS. NONE.

MATERIAL EVIDENCE: NONE. THIS SOURCE BROUGHT NO RECORDS, ALBUMS, DIARIES, OR ANY MATERIAL EVIDENCE ASSOCIATED WITH MIA'S ACCOUNTED FOR U.S. PERSONNEL.

COMMENTS.

A. THE MEMBERS OF THE JOINT TEAM CONFERRED ON THE QUESTIONS TO BE ASKED DURING THIS INTERVIEW. TEAM MEMBERS AGREED THAT THE NEED TO RE-INTERVIEW THIS SUBJECT WOULD DEPEND ON WHETHER FURTHER QUESTIONS FOR BG HAI ARISE DURING THE COURSE OF THE SPECIAL

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