

PW-MIA  
JTF

VZCZCBT0892  
 RR RUEHBT  
 DE RUHQSGG #3868 2700251  
 ZNR UUUUU  
 R 220112Z SEP 93 ZYB  
 FM CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI//J2//  
 TO RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC//USDP:RSA//  
 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-JOD//  
 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, TU CUONG//  
 REF/A/FAX/DET TWO/26JUN93//  
 AMPN/ENTRY NUMBER 61, LIST OF 83 INTERVIEW REQUESTS//  
 RMKS/1. BACKGROUND. ON 18 JUNE 1993, A JOINT U.S./VIETNAM

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ADMIN
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 PRIORITY CASE INVESTIGATION TEAM (PCIT) INTERVIEWED MR. PHO BIEN CUONG, (AKA TU CUONG), A 75 YEAR OLD SONG BE PROVINCE RESIDENT. MR. PHO BIEN CUONG IS CURRENTLY RETIRED. THE TEAM MET AT THE SONG BE PROVINCE PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE HEADQUARTERS TO INTERVIEW MR. CUONG, 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 MSGT WILLIAM R. DEETER, PCIT TEAM LEADER; AND MSGT MARK W. GRAHAM, JOINT TASK FORCE-FULL ACCOUNTING (JTF-FA) ANALYST/LINGUIST. THE VIETNAMESE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT CONTINGENT CONSISTED OF PHAM TEO, MINISTRY OF DEFENSE; AND NGUYEN DUY THANH, MINISTRY OF INTERIOR. MR. CUONG HAD NOT BEEN INTERVIEWED BY A JOINT TEAM BEFORE.  
 2. SUMMARY. THE SOURCE, MR. CUONG, PROVIDED INFORMATION CONCERNING THE DAK NHAO PRISON CAMP LOCATED NEAR DAK NHAO STREAM IN BU DANG DISTRICT, PHUOC LONG (CURRENTLY SONG BE) PROVINCE, INCLUDING INFORMATION CONCERNING AN AMERICAN WHO ALLEGEDLY DIED IN CAPTIVITY DURING 1966. THIS INFORMATION PROBABLY CORRELATES TO CASE 0054-1-01, AN UNRESOLVED CASE. MR. CUONG PROVIDED NOTHING THAT WILL, IN ITSELF, LEAD TO THE IMMEDIATE RESOLUTION OF ANY EXISTING U.S. PRISONER OF WAR (PW)/MIA CASE. THE SUBJECT HAD

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 NEVER, SINCE 1973, SEEN OR KNOWN OF AMERICANS, LIVING FREELY OR AGAINST THEIR WILL, IN VIETNAM.  
 3. DETAILS.

A. MR. PHO BIEN CUONG (PHOS BIEENF CWONG), AKA TU CUONG (T CWONG), DESCRIBED HIMSELF AS THE LEGAL OFFICER IN CHARGE OF PRISONER EXPLOITATION BETWEEN 1965 AND 1969 AT DAK NHAO CAMP, A MAIN DETENTION CAMP IN FORMER PHUOC LONG PROVINCE. THE CAMP WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1964 NEAR DAK NHAO STREAM (YU3412) IN BU DANG DISTRICT, BETWEEN BU GIA MAP (YU3437) AND BU DANG (YU4813) TOWN FOLLOWING HIS TOUR IN THIS DETENTION CAMP, MR. CUONG WAS PROMOTED TO DIRECTOR OF THE PROVINCE'S DETENTION CAMPS.

B. DURING EARLY 1965, MR. CUONG SAID, AN UNIDENTIFIED PEOPLE'S ARMY OF VIETNAM (PAVN) UNIT CAPTURED AN AMERICAN MEDIC AND SENT HIM TO THE DAK NHAO CAMP. THE CAMP HAD A POPULATION OF APPROXIMATELY 45 PEOPLE THROUGHOUT THIS YEAR, INCLUDING NEARLY REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM ARMED FORCES (RVNAF) PRISONERS AND APPROXIMATELY 11 CAMP CADRE; HOWEVER, THE RVNAF PRISONERS WERE TURNED OVER TO REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM AUTHORITIES AFTER ONLY ONE OR TWO MONTHS OF CAPTIVITY DUE TO AN INADEQUATE LOGISTICAL CAPABILITY TO KEEP LARGE NUMBERS OF PRISONERS. HE DESCRIBED THE

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 U.S. MEDIC AS BEING BETWEEN 20 AND 25 YEARS OLD, TALL AND THIN, WITH WHITE SKIN AND LIGHT COLORED HAIR. MR. CUONG ALSO SAID THE MEDIC WAS CALLED "NO TIN" (NOO TIN) AND HAD BECOME FLUENT IN THE VIETNAMESE LANGUAGE WHILE IN CAPTIVITY. MR. CUONG RECALLED THAT THE MEDIC REMAINED IN GOOD HEALTH AND BECAME ILL ONLY ONCE DURING HIS CAPTIVITY, FROM A HEAD COLD, BUT QUICKLY RECOVERED AFTER RECEIVING MEDICATION.

C. THE MEDIC WAS HELD IN THE CAMP UNTIL MAY OR JUNE OF 1966 MORE THAN A YEAR AFTER HIS CAPTURE, WHEN, DUE TO A BOMBING RAID ON THE CAMP AND A U.S. TROOP ASSAULT TOWARD BU GIA MAP, HE WAS RELOCATED INTO THE JUNGLE, ALONG WITH THREE OR FOUR RVNAF PRISONERS ALSO BEING HELD AT THAT TIME. THE GROUP SET OFF IN THE DIRECTION OF QUANG DUC (CQ0558). HE RECALLED THAT ON THE SECOND NIGHT TRI THUONG (TRIS TRWONGF), THE DEPUTY COMMANDER, WAS KILLED BY A TIGER. ON THE FOLLOWING NIGHT THE AMERICAN WAS ALSO KILLED BY A TIGER, WHICH CARRIED THE MEDIC'S BODY AWAY. MR. CUONG SAID HE WITNESSED BOTH DEATHS. FOLLOWING THE DEATHS, THE VIETNAMESE ATTEMPTED TO FIND THE BODIES BUT FOUND NO REMAINS, ONLY BLOOD. AFTER THE U.S. FORCES WITHDREW FROM THE DAK NHAO AREA, APPROXIMATELY FIVE DAYS FOLLOWING THE DEATH OF THE AMERICAN

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 MEDIC, THE GROUP RETURNED TO DAK NHAO CAMP.

D. MR. CUONG COULD NOT RECALL ANY SPECIFICS REGARDING A REPORT WHICH WAS FILED CONCERNING THE AMERICANS DEATH. HE ALSO INDICATED THAT ALL DOCUMENTATION CONCERNING THE AMERICAN PRISONER'S EXPLOITATION WAS DESTROYED IN THE BOMBING RAID.

E. MR. CUONG SAID THAT DURING THE WAR AFTER THE INCIDENT OTHER CAMP CADRE WHO WOULD HAVE KNOWLEDGE OF THIS INCIDENT WERE KILLED, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF DIEU SET (DIEUF SETS), AN ETHNIC S'TIENG. HE COULD NOT RECALL THE NAMES OF THE RVNAF PRISONERS PRESENT DURING THE AMERICAN'S DEATH, CITING THE SHORT PERIOD OF

RVNAF PERSONNEL CAPTIVITY AS REASON FOR THIS.

F. AFTER HIS PROMOTION TO THE PROVINCE LEVEL, MR. CUONG NEVER HEARD ANY REPORTS OF OTHER AMERICAN PRISONERS IN PHUOC LONG PRISON SYSTEM. ACCORDING TO MR. CUONG IT WAS NOT UNTIL AFTER 1970 THAT THE DAK NHAO PRISON CAMP WAS CALLED CAMP T52. MR. CUONG ALSO DESCRIBED THE K6 DISTRICT AS A FRONT LINE AREA LOCATED NEAR BU DOP (YT1886), WITHOUT PRISON CAMPS. ADDITIONALLY, HE RECALLED THAT DURING 1965, A SMALL TEMPORARY HOLDING CAMP, WHICH HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED NEAR DONG XOAI (BS4377) WAS BOMBED, KILLING THE CAMP COMMANDER. MR. CUONG WENT ON TO SAY THAT THERE WERE NO

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PW'S HELD IN THIS CAMP AT THE TIME OF THE BOMBING.

G. MR. CUONG WAS AWARE OF EFFORTS TO FIND THE REMAINS OF U.S. PERSONNEL MISSING SINCE THE WAR AND HAD HEARD OF LOCAL PEOPLE ATTEMPTING TO HELP. HOWEVER, HE HAS NEVER ACTUALLY MET ANYONE INVOLVED IN THIS ENDEAVOR.

H. IN RESPONSE TO MSGT DEETER'S QUERIES, MR. CUONG STATED THAT HE HAD NEVER, SINCE 1973, SEEN OR HAD KNOWLEDGE OF U.S. PW'S IN VIETNAM. NEITHER, HE CLAIMED HAD HE SEEN OR BEEN AWARE OF U.S. "STAY-BEHINDS" IN VIETNAM SINCE 1973.

I. WITH NO FURTHER QUESTIONS FOR MR. CUONG, THE JOINT TEAM AGREED TO CONCLUDE THE INTERVIEW.

4. CORRELATIONS TO EXISTING POW/MIA CASES.

A. MR. CUONG'S STATEMENTS PROBABLY CORRELATE TO CASE 0054-1-01, AN UNRESOLVED CASE, BASED ON THE TIME FRAME OF CAPTURE, LOCATION, AND PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE MISSING INDIVIDUAL.

B. ELEMENTS OF MR. CUONG'S STATEMENTS THAT DO NOT MATCH THE ACTUAL CIRCUMSTANCES IN CASE 0054 ARE:

(1) "NO TIN", THE NAME THE CAPTORS IN CUONG'S STATEMENT

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