

MEMO

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From..... AIO(VEU) Team A
 To..... CIO(SO) via SIO(VEU)
 Ref. In..... L/M 2031 in HS/GEN/77
 Tel. No. 5-452990
 Date 2 August 1984
 Your Ref. In
 dated

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INVESTIGATION REPORT ON L/M 2031
 42 Vietnamese Refugees arrived
 by junk on 12-7-1984
 Last Port : DANANG, C. VN.
 Sailing Date : 2-7-1984

15 AUG 1984

The Interception

Marine Police Launch No. 53 intercepted the captioned group at 1300 hours on 12-7-1984 at a position GQ 985565 off Siu A Chau.

Group Composition

2. This group consisted of 10 families and 5 individuals and the breakdown is 15 men, 9 women, 8 boys and 10 girls. There are 38 Vietnamese from the Central and 3 Vietnamese from the South. The remaining 1 is an ethnic Chinese from the Central.

The Vessel

3. The boat by which they escaped is a C. VN. type motorized junk the measurement is about 11 metres in length and 2.6 metres in width. A 'YANMAR' engine of 45 kilowatts in power is installed on board. This boat was owned by the boatmaster, VO VAN LUC.

Their Plot

4. The main organizer are VO VAN LUC and DANG VAN MAI who invited a total of 40 passengers to join in the exodus at various costs. Out of the 18 taels of gold collected, 14 taels were used to bribe the Public securities at coastal check point in DANANG whilst the remaining 4 taels were for expenditures of 180 litres of fuel, 56 kg. of rice, a spare 'YANMAR' engine and propeller. When everything was ready, all parties concerned were informed to assemble on 2-7-1984 at 2300 hours at DANANG, C. VN. where the embarkation took place.

The Trip to H.K.

5. This group of 42 persons departed DANANG, C. VN. at 2330 hrs. on 2-7-1984 and sailed northeastwards. On 4-7-1984, they reached GANG XI (港西) in southern HAINAN DAO (海南島) and stayed for 1 day. They left GANG XI on 5-7-1984. After sailing for 3 days, they entered HERAO DAO (荷包島) on 8-7-1984 and stayed until 12-7-1984 because of the approach of typhoon (believed to be Tropical Depression Betty). They resumed voyage on 12-7-1984 and entered HK waters later on the same day without stopping over at Macao.

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/Conclusion

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Conclusion

6. Upon discreet enquiries, nothing suspicious that they are not genuine refugees have been unearthed, and I am satisfied that they are a group of people recently and directly displaced from Vietnam by the following reasons :-

- (i) Some of them possess Vietnamese Identification Papers;
- (ii) they speak fluent Vietnamese;
- (iii) they have sound knowledge on Vietnamese currency and public affairs; and
- (iv) their account of exodus is reasonable and acceptable.

7. They claimed to have information about U.S. Servicemen in Vietnam.

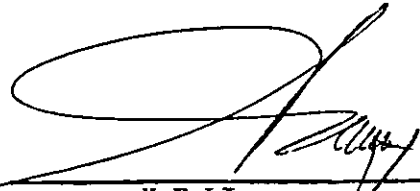
Remarks


8. NGUYEN HUU TRACK (L/M 2031/28) claimed that his friend VO VAN VINH, who was still in Vietnam, had discovered in QUANG NAM, C. VN. 2 remains of U.S. Serviceman. The names and personal particulars of the 2 Servicemen were :

- (i) D.F. FRENCH USMA, 239-9673A, METHODIST.
- (ii) HAGEWOOD PAUL D, 0-408-70-9684 POS. CHURCH OF CHRIST.

Recommendation

9. Handover to UNHCR is recommended.


Y F LI
IO(VEU)/A
Countersigning Officer


Y S WONG
AIO(VEU)/A

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