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RR RUEKJCS RHEPAAA RUEKJCS RUEHC RUEKJCS RUHQHQA  
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FM USDAO BANGKOK TH//PW-MIA//

TO RUEKJCS / DIA WASHINGTON DC//PW-MIA/DOF/DOF3//

INFO RHEPAAA / WHITEHOUSE WASHDC//NSC//

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

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

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

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

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

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

RUHQHQA / CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI

RUFKKL / USDAO KUALA LUMPUR//SB//

RUEHKK / USDAO HONG KONG//PW-MIA//

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

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

BT

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 BANGKOK TH 24659

U N C L A S S I F I E D

THIS IS A STONY BEACH MESSAGE

SERIAL: IIR 6 024 0267 92.

COUNTRY: VIETNAM (VN).

SUBJECT: IIR 6 024 0267 92/AMBUSH OF TWO ALLEGED  
- AMERICAN SOLDIERS AT PRASOT IN 1970.-----  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
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FOI: 700400.

RIFS: D-VOP-2430-03-90.

SOURCE: CAMBODIAN NATIONAL HING LUN, A 52 YOA  
RESIDENT OF PHUM TRA DETH (APPROX UTM GRID COORDS WT  
966195), SVAY TEAP DISTRICT, SVAY RIENG PROVINCE,  
CAMBODIA, WHO WITNESSED AN AMBUSH IN 1970. THE SOURCE  
IS THE BROTHER OF THE STATE OF CAMBODIA (SOC)  
BRIGADIER GENERAL HING LAN.

SUMMARY: THIS IS A STONY BEACH REPORT. THE WITNESS  
REPORTED OBSERVING THE AMBUSH OF A JEEP CARRYING TWO  
CAUCASIAN SOLDIERS AS THEY PASSED THROUGH THE VILLAGE  
OF PRASOT, SVAY TEAP DISTRICT, SVAY RIENG PROVINCE,  
DURING THE APRIL-JUNE TIMEFRAME OF 1970. BOTH  
INDIVIDUALS WERE KILLED AND THEIR BODIES THROWN INTO A

NEARBY WELL.

TEXT: 1. ON MAY 7 THE PO (ALLAN MICHAELS),  
ACCOMPANIED BY THE SOC VICE MINISTER FOR NATIONAL  
SECURITY MG NUOM SARETH, STONY BEACH REPRESENTATIVE  
THACH SAREN, SOC BG HING LAN, AND SOC INTERPRETER OUK  
PUNTPAN, TRAVELED TO SVAY RIENG PROVINCE TO  
INVESTIGATE THE CAPTURE AND EARLY MOVEMENT PHASES OF  
THE INCIDENT INVOLVING AMERICAN JOURNALISTS SEAN FLYNN  
AND DANA STONE. A PRELIMINARY MEETING HAD BEEN HELD  
IN SVAY RIENG TOWN ON 26 APRIL AT WHICH TIME  
PROVINCIAL OFFICIALS AGREED TO SEARCH FOR AND  
HOPEFULLY PRODUCE, LOCAL VILLAGERS WHO MIGHT HAVE  
WITNESSED THE INCIDENT OR HAD SOME KNOWLEDGE OF THE  
TRANSFER OF THE TWO AMERICANS THROUGH SVAY RIENG AND  
INTO THE ADJOINING PROVINCE OF KAMPONG CHAM. ALSO  
BROUGHT UP AT THIS MEETING, AS WELL AS THE ONE HELD ON  
27 MAY BETWEEN BG NEADPAN, THE JTF COMMANDER, AND THE  
SOC VICE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, LONG VISALO,  
WAS AN ALLEGED INCIDENT INVOLVING THE KILLING OF TWO  
AMERICANS IN SVAY RIENG PROVINCE AND THEIR SUBSEQUENT  
BURIAL IN A WELL. THIS INCIDENT WAS TO BE  
INVESTIGATED AS WELL.

2. UNFORTUNATELY, UPON OUR ARRIVAL IN SVAY RIENG  
TOWN, WE DISCOVERED THAT THE LOCAL OFFICIALS COULD NOT  
PRODUCE ANY WITNESSES TO THE CAPTURE OF FLYNN AND  
STONE. (ANALYST COMMENT: IT SEEMS THAT THE OFFICIALS  
MAY HAVE MISTAKENLY SEARCHED FOR WITNESSES TOO FAR  
WEST OF THE ACTUAL POINT OF CAPTURE. END COMMENT.)  
MG NUOM SARETH WAS INFORMED THAT BOTH AMERICAN  
JOURNALISTS, AS WELL AS EIGHT ADDITIONAL FOREIGN  
CORRESPONDENTS, WERE CAPTURED EAST OF CHI PHU DURING A  
FOUR-DAY PERIOD IN EARLY APRIL 1970. THE SEARCH FOR  
WITNESSES SHOULD THEREFORE CONCENTRATE ON THE AREA  
BETWEEN CHI PHU AND RAVET. MG SARETH ACKNOWLEDGED  
THIS AND STATED HE WOULD HAVE HIS PERSONNEL LOOK INTO  
THE MATTER AND REPORT HIS FINDINGS AT A LATER DATE.  
3. THE SOC SIDE DID, HOWEVER, PRODUCE AN INDIVIDUAL  
WHO CLAIMED TO HAVE WITNESSED THE AMBUSH OF TWO  
ALLEGED AMERICANS IN 1970 IN PRASOT, SVAY TEAP  
DISTRICT, SVAY RIENG PROVINCE. THE WITNESS, HING LUN,  
IS THE BROTHER OF A MEMBER OF THE JOINT INVESTIGATIVE  
TEAM, BG HING LAN. THIS INCIDENT INVOLVED THE  
SUBSEQUENT DISPOSAL OF THE BODIES INTO A WELL AND WAS  
THE ONE MENTIONED BY VICE MINISTER LONG VISALO AND THE

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF SVAY RIENG DISTRICT DURING THE TWO AFOREMENTIONED MEETINGS.

4. MR. LUN STATED THAT THE AMBUSH OCCURRED IN EARLY 1970, SOME TIME AFTER THE LON NOL TAKEOVER AND JOINT US/SOUTH VIETNAMESE INCURSION INTO CAMBODIA. IT TOOK PLACE ALONG ROUTE 1 NEAR THE INTERSECTION WITH THE KAMPONG RAU DISTRICT ROAD. A RESIDENT OF TRA DETH VILLAGE, WHICH IS LOCATED ABOUT ONE KILOMETER SOUTHWEST OF PRASOT, LUN HAS PRESENT IN PRASOT AT THE TIME AS A RESULT OF BEING HIRED TO TRANSPORT RICE BY OX CART FOR A VIETNAMESE INDIVIDUAL. THE INCIDENT OCCURRED AT ABOUT 1300. AS LUN WAS TRAVELING ALONG ROUTE 1, HE WAS TOLD BY A LONE KHMER SOLDIER TO GET OFF THE ROAD AND OUT OF THE WAY. THE SOLDIER WAS HIDING IN A HOUSE ALONG THE NORTHERN SIDE OF ROUTE 1. SHORTLY THEREAFTER, A JEEP TRAVELING EAST APPROACHED HIS POSITION. THE KHMER SOLDIER OPENED FIRE WITH AN AK-47, INSTANTLY KILLING THE DRIVER OF THE VEHICLE, WHO HAD BEEN SHOT IN THE HEAD, AND WOUNDING THE PASSENGER. THE PASSENGER MANAGED TO EXIT THE VEHICLE AND ATTEMPTED TO RUN. HE WAS SUBSEQUENTLY SHOT DEAD BY THE SOLDIER WHO HAD MAINTAINED HIS POSITION IN THE HOUSE. THE KHMER SOLDIER REMOVED WRISTWATCHES FROM THE TWO BODIES AND THEN ORDERED ABOUT TEN VILLAGERS TO CARRY THEM TO A NEARBY WELL AND DISPOSE OF THEM THERE. AFTER STATING THAT HE HAD JUST KILLED TWO AMERICANS, THE KHMER SOLDIER DISPERSED THE VILLAGERS SAYING THAT THE AMERICANS WOULD SHORTLY COME TO BOMB THE AREA. LUN STATED THAT FIVE HELICOPTERS CAME ABOUT 30 MINUTES LATER TO STRAFE AND BOMB AN AREA ABOUT 300 METERS TO THE SOUTH OF THE INCIDENT. THERE WERE NO SAR FORCES EVIDENT AND WHEN ASKED WHY THE HELICOPTERS DID NOT SEE THE AMBUSHED VEHICLE, LUN RESPONDED THAT IT HAD BEEN PUSHED INTO A RAVINE AND COVERED WITH BAMBOO. LUN WAS UNSURE AS TO WHETHER THE HELICOPTERS WERE AMERICAN, VNAF, OR KHMER.

5. THE SOURCE STATED THAT THE TWO INDIVIDUALS WERE CAUCASIAN AND WEARING GREEN MILITARY TYPE CLOTHING WITH BLACK BOOTS. EACH WAS CARRYING A PISTOL. NEITHER WAS WEARING A HAT. HE REPORTED THE VEHICLE HAD A RADIO AND THAT THE PASSENGER HAD ATTEMPTED TO USE IT DURING THE AMBUSH. LUN ALSO SAID THAT THIS JEEP WAS THE LEAD VEHICLE OF A SMALL CONVOY; IT WAS THE ONLY VEHICLE HIT, AS THE OTHERS (HE COULD NOT REMEMBER THE NUMBER), RETURNED FROM WHENCE THEY CAME UNSCATHED.

6. THE KHMER SOLDIER DID NOT ATTEMPT TO CAPTURE THE ALLEGED AMERICANS OR GIVE THEM A CHANCE TO SURRENDER. HE JUST OPENED FIRE WHEN THE VEHICLE CAME IN HIS LINE OF SIGHT. LIKEWISE, WHEN THE WOUNDED PASSENGER ATTEMPTED TO RUN, NO ATTEMPT WAS MADE TO CAPTURE HIM ALIVE OR GIVE HIM A CHANCE TO SURRENDER; HE WAS JUST SHOT. WHEN ASKED IF ANY KHMER OR VIETNAMESE CADRE SUBSEQUENTLY CAME TO INVESTIGATE THE INCIDENT, LUN REPLIED NO. WHEN ASKED IF THIS SOLDIER HAD RECEIVED

SOME SORT OF COMMENDATION FOR HIS ACTION, LUN RESPONDED THAT HE DID NOT KNOW. HE DID STATE THAT HE SAW THIS SOLDIER ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS AFTER THE INCIDENT. HIS NAME WAS SARONN AND HE WAS FROM A NEARBY VILLAGE CALLED TROK (POSSIBLY PRUM TRAK AT UTM COORDS WT 960165). THE SOLDIER AND HIS FAMILY, HOWEVER, WERE SUBSEQUENTLY EXECUTED DURING THE POL POT REGIME.

7. LUN REPORTED THAT AN ARVN UNIT WAS SITUATED ONLY ABOUT TWO KILOMETERS TO THE EAST OF WHERE THE INCIDENT OCCURRED. ADDITIONALLY, HE STATED THAT IN A PAGODA COMPOUND TO THE WEST NEAR SVAY RIENG TOWN, WERE POSSIBLY SOME AMERICAN ARTILLERY FORCES. THE SOURCE WAS ASKED IF ANY AMERICAN OR SOUTH VIETNAMESE FORCES EVENTUALLY CAME INTO PRASOT AND EITHER SEARCHED FOR THE TWO MISSING SOLDIERS OR POSSIBLY COULD HAVE BEEN LED TO THE GRAVESITE BY LOCAL VILLAGERS. LUN REPLIED THAT LESS THAN A MONTH AFTER THE INCIDENT, ARVN FORCES MOVED INTO PRASOT. ALTHOUGH HE HAS NOT POSITIVE, HE DID NOT BELIEVE THAT ANY BODIES WERE RECOVERED. HE

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF SVAY RIENG DISTRICT DURING THE TWO AFOREMENTIONED MEETINGS.

SAID THAT THE KHMER VILLAGERS WERE AFRAID OF THE ARVN AND PROBABLY WOULD NOT HAVE INFORMED THEM OF THE INCIDENT.

8. LUN STATED THAT THE WELL WAS LOCATED ON THE SOUTHERN SIDE OF ROUTE 1. IT WAS NEAR A SCHOOL AND SOME HOUSES THAT WERE DESTROYED DURING THE WAR. NO VILLAGERS RETURNED TO REBUILD IN THIS GENERAL AREA AND LUN BELIEVES THAT THE WELL REMAINED UNUSED. PRESENTLY, ITS EXACT LOCATION IS UNKNOWN. IT WAS MORE THAN LIKELY BROKEN DOWN AND COVERED OVER. THREE LARGE WAREHOUSES HAVE BEEN BUILT IN THE GENERAL AREA WHERE THE SOURCE REMEMBERS THE WELL TO HAVE BEEN, LEADING TO THE POSSIBILITY THAT IT NOW RESTS UNDER THE FLOOD OF ONE.

9. ANALYTICAL COMMENT: THERE IS NO RECORD OF AN INCIDENT IN CAMBODIA IN GENERAL, OR SVAY RIENG PROVINCE IN PARTICULAR, INVOLVING AMERICAN LOSSES THAT CAN CORRELATE TO THE INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE SOURCE. THE CAPTURE OF THE TWO CORRESPONDENTS, FLYNN AND STONE, AND THE 1972 SHOOTDOWN OF AN F-2 AIRCRAFT THAT RESULTED IN THE CAPTURE OF ITS PILOT, CAPTAIN BAKER, WERE THE ONLY TWO LOSS INCIDENTS FOR SVAY RIENG. CAPTAIN BAKER WAS SUBSEQUENTLY RELEASED AT LOC NINE IN FEBRUARY 1973. ALTHOUGH THE FLYNN AND STONE CASE REMAINS UNSOLVED, THE TWO WERE KNOWN TO HAVE SURVIVED CAPTURE, HAVE BEEN SUBSEQUENTLY MOVED INTO YAMPONG CHAM PROVINCE, AND AS ALL EVIDENCE COLLECTED SO FAR WOULD SEEM TO INDICATE, EXECUTED THERE. EIGHT OTHER FOREIGN JOURNALISTS WERE CAPTURED (OR KILLED) IN THE SAME GENERAL AREA ALONG ROUTE 1 WITHIN THREE DAYS OF FLYNN AND STONE. TWO OF THE INCIDENTS DO NOT CORRELATE WITH THE SOURCE'S REPORT SINCE EACH INVOLVED THE LOSS OF THREE PERSONNEL: ONE GROUP INCLUDED TWO JAPANESE AND A FRENCHMAN, WHILE THE SECOND CONSISTED OF THREE FRENCHMEN. THE THIRD INCIDENT INVOLVED TWO OTHER EUROPEAN PHOTOJOURNALISTS, DIETER BELLENDORF, A GERMAN, AND GEORGE GENSLUCKNER, AN AUSTRIAN. REPORTING INDICATES THAT THE TWO WERE TRAVELING EAST ALONG ROUTE 1, THROUGH SVAY RIENG, WHEN THEY DUMPED THEIR DRIVER, WHO WAS RELUCTANT TO CONTINUE THE JOURNEY. THEIR LAST KNOWN REPORTED LOCATION WAS PRASOT. THE TWO WERE ALLEGEDLY STOPPED AND ARRESTED BY COMMUNIST GUERRILLAS BETWEEN CHI PHU AND PAVET. ALTHOUGH THE NUMBER OF PERSONNEL AND TIMEFRAME MATCH, REPORTING DOES NOT INDICATE THE TWO WERE AMBUSHED IN PRASOT. ADDITIONALLY, THEY WERE DRIVING A MERCEDES BENZ CAR, NOT A JEEP. IT IS NOT KNOWN IF THE TWO COULD HAVE BEEN WEARING MILITARY TANK CLOTHING OR CARRYING HANDGUNS. THE RC ALSO PURSUED A LINE OF QUESTIONING ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE TWO INDIVIDUALS IN THE JEEP WERE SOUTH VIETNAMESE PERSONNEL RETURNING TO THEIR UNIT EAST OF PRASOT. LUN SIMPLY REPLIED THAT THE TWO WERE CAUCASIANS, NOT

VIETNAMESE.

/IPSP: PG 2430//.  
 //COMSOBJ: 521//.  
 PROJ: 6999-12.  
 COLL: AP, AC.  
 INSTR: US: NO.  
 PRFP: ALLAN MICHALES.  
 ENCL: NONE.  
 ACQ: 920607, PRASOT, SVAY RIENG PROVINCE, CB.  
 DISSEM: FIELD: AMEMBASSY BANGKOK (AMB, DCM, POL,  
 - SA, DATLO, EX/A, CJTF).

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