

SUBJ: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REPORT CONCERNING REMAINS RECOVERY
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REF: JTFFA DET ONE DTG MAR 92

1. () REF A IS THE SUMMARY REPORT OF JOINT US/SRV ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED IN THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM DURING ITERATION 16 FROM 20 FEB TO 19 MAR 92. PARA ___ OF REF PERTAINS TO THE INVESTIGATION OF CASE 1104 WHICH IS REPORTED IN DETAIL HEREIN. THIS REPORT IS BASED ON FIELD ANALYSIS ALONE AND IS NT INTENDED TO PROVIDE FINAL ANALYTICAL CONCLUSIONS.

2. () SUMMARY OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: ON 16 MAR 92, TWO VIETNAMESE CITIZENS DIRECTLY CONTACTED THE AMERICAN TEAM ALLEGEDING TO POSSESS INFORMATION CONCERNING THEIR RECOVERY OF AMERICAN REMAINS. ONE INDIVIDUAL PROVIDED IDENTIFICATION MEDIA NOT RELATED TO AN AMERICAN MISSING OR KILLED IN ACTION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA (TOWNSEND, R.W.). THE SECOND INDIVIDUAL PROVIDED A COPY OF A MILITARY IDENTIFICATION CARD WHICH WAS ALLEGEDLY RECOVERED ALONG WITH ONE REMAINS FROM AN UNIDENTIFIED HELICOPTER CRASH SITE SOUTHEAST OF BIEN HOA TOWN IN THE VICINITY OF GRID COORDINATES YT0502. THE PHOTOCOPIED IDENTIFICATION CARD CORRELATED TO "HARVEY C. ADDISON," AN AMERICAN LISTED AS KILLED IN ACTION, REMAINS RECOVERED. THIS VIETNAMESE CITIZEN LATER RELEASED THESE REMAINS TO THE VNOSMP PENDING A FUTURE FORENSIC EXAMINATION.

3. () DETAILS OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

A. () ABOUT 0900 HOURS, 16 MAR 92, TWO VIETNAMESE CITIZENS CAME TO THE BINH DUONG HOTEL, 50 BACH DANG STREET, THU DAU MOT TOWN, SONG BE PROVINCE AND ASKED TO TALK TO THE US TEAM MEMBERS. JIM ROSS, DAVID ATHERTON AND CHUCK DOAN MET WITH THEM FOR ABOUT ONE HOUR AND LEARNED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

(1) THE TWO MEN WERE DOAN VAN PHUC OF 30/16 KHOM 6, TAM HIEP WARD, BIEN HOA CITY, DONG NAI PROVINCE AND NGUYEN CONG TAM. TAM DECLINED TO PROVIDE AN ADDRESS SAYING ONLY THAT HE LIVED IN DA LAT.

(2) PHUC PROVIDED A RECEIPT SHOWING HE HAD RELINQUISHED CONTROL OF REMAINS PURPORTED TO BE OF TOWNSEND, RICHARD W/RA19611622/LUTHERAN/A AND A MISSING AMERICAN TO THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT. ACCORDING TO THE RECEIPT, ON 1 JULY 1985, A NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS CLAIMING KNOWLEDGE OF OR INVOLVEMENT IN THE RECOVERY OF THESE REMAINS MET AT MRS DOAN THI DUC'S HOME, #4E, TRUONG MINH TAN INDUSTRIAL AREA, HAMLET 6, TAM HIEP WARD, BIEN HOA CITY, DONG NAI PROVINCE. THE GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT TO TAKE CONTROL OF THE REMAINS INCLUDED MINISTRY OF INTERIOR CADRE, CA CADRE FROM HO CHI MINH CITY AND THE DEPUTY "CA" LEADER, TAM HIEP WARD, BIEN HOA CITY.

(3) THE TEAM INFORMED PHUC AND TAM OF THE POLICY REGARDING PROVISION OF INFORMATION OR REMAINS IN CONNECTION WITH THE MIA

ISSUE, IN PARTICULAR, THE LACK OF ANY MONETARY OR RESETTLEMENT AWARDS. ADDITIONALLY, THEY INFORMED THE MEN THAT THE TEAM WORKED WITH THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE WHO COOPERATED WITH THE US AND VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT BE PUNISHED BY THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT FOR THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN THE ISSUE. PHUC SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THESE MATTERS AND HAD PROVIDED THESE REMAINS OF HUMANITARIAN CONCERNS. HE REQUESTED THE TEAM PROVIDE HIM INFORMATION CONCERNING THE STATUS OF THE REMAINS WHICH HE HAD PROVIDED.

(4) THE TEAM TOLD HIM THE NAME ASSOCIATED WITH THE REMAINS WAS NOT THE NAME OF ANYONE WHO HAD DIED OR WAS MISSING IN VIETNAM. IF TOWNSEND HAD SERVED IN VIETNAM, HE HAD RETURNED TO AMERICA ALIVE. REGARDING THE STATUS OF THE REMAINS THEMSELVES, THE TEAM DID NOT HAVE ACCESS TO SPECIFIC INFORMATION; HOWEVER, THEY KNEW THAT DURING SEVERAL REMAINS EXAMINATION PERIODS IN HO CHI MINH CITY, US AND VIETNAMESE FORENSIC REPRESENTATIVES HAD EXAMINED ABOUT 1000 REMAINS SIMILAR TO THOSE REPORTED BY PHUC. OF THESE REMAINS RO RECALLED ONLY ABOUT FIVE TO TEN HAD POSSIBLY BEEN AMERICAN. THE REST WERE THE REMAINS OF SEA MONGOLOID PEOPLE OF BOTH SEXES AND ALL AGES.

B. () TAM PROVIDED A PHOTOCOPY OF AN ID CARD, #D847147, WHICH PERTAINED TO WO1 HARVEY C. ADDISON. HE SAID HE HAD LOCATED THE ID CARD AND ADDISON'S REMAINS FROM A BURNED OUT CRASH SITE IN THE VICINITY OF LONG THANH CITY (YS1414), DONG NAI PROVINCE. SUBSEQUENTLY, HE AND PHUC POINTED OUT A LOCATION IN THE VICINITY OF YS0502 AS BEING CLOSER TO THE LOCATION OF THE CRASH SITE. ADDISON'S REMAINS HAD NOT YET BEEN GIVEN TO THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT AND THEY WERE CONCERNED OF HOW THIS COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED WITHOUT DANGER TO THEMSELVES AND THEIR FAMILIES. DURING THE INITIAL CONVERSATION, THEY INDICATED THE REMAINS WERE LOCATED IN BIEN HOA. THE TEAM INFORMED THEM THAT DUE TO TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS PLACED ON THE TEAM, IT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT FOR THE TEAM TO GO TO BIEN HOA CITY TO RECOVER THE REMAINS; HOWEVER, IF TAM AND PHUC WANTED TO BRING THE REMAINS TO THE HOTEL WHERE THE TEAM WAS STAYING OR TO THE DE NHAT HOTEL IN HO CHI MINH CITY THE FOLLOWING DAY, THEY WOULD BE HAPPY TO ARRANGE A TRANSFER WITH ALL APPROPRIATE PROVINCIAL AND CENTRAL OFFICIALS PRESENT.

(1) () THE TEAM INFORMED PHUC AND TAM THAT ADDISON HAD IN FACT BEEN KILLED DURING THE WAR; HOWEVER, HIS REMAINS HAD BEEN RECOVERED DURING THE WAR AND HE WAS NOT LISTED AS MISSING IN ACTION. BECAUSE THE SITE INVOLVED WAS A HELICOPTER SITE, THE TEAM SAID IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR SOMEONE ELSE TO BE UNACCOUNTED FOR IN THAT CRASH SITE AND THE REMAINS MIGHT PERTAIN TO SOMEONE ELSE, THEREFORE, IT WOULD BE GOOD IF THEY GAVE THE REMAINS TO THE VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES FOR FORENSIC EXAMINATION AND BY THE AMERICANS AT A LATER DATE.

(2) () ABOUT 1400 HOURS THAT AFTERNOON, PHUC AND TAM RETURNED TO THE HOTEL AND REQUESTED THE TEAM COME TO PICK UP THE REMAINS AT A VILLAGE ABOUT FOUR KILOMETERS AWAY. ABOUT 1500 HOURS, ALL APPLICABLE OFFICIALS ARRIVED AT THE HOTEL AND THE TEAM

WENT TO COLLECT THE REMAINS. PARA (3) IS THE TRANSLATION OF THE DOCUMENT DESCRIBING THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE REMAINS.

(3) () SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM/INDEPENDENCE, FREEDOM, HAPPINESS. RECEIPT OF REMAINS RELEASING. IT IS 1300 HOURS, 16 MAR 92, AT 313B THU KHOA HUAN STREET, AN THANH VILLAGE, THUAN AN DISTRICT, WHICH IS THE RESIDENCE OF MR. NGUYEN NGOC ANH, 1959 (NOTE: BORN 1959). THE JOINT MIA INVESTIGATION TEAM CONSISTS OF DAVID ATHERTON, CHUCK DOAN (REPRESENTATIVES OF AMERICAN SIDE), NGUYEN TRI CHU, NGUYEN BA DANG, THAI THI TUY LIEN, VO HUNG MINH, RECEIVES FROM MR. NGUYEN CONG TAM, 1954 (NOTE: BORN 1954), RESIDING AT WARD 3, HO TUYEN LAM TOURIST REGION, DA LAT, LAM DONG ONE BAG OF BROKEN BONES. THERE IS ALSO THE PRESENCE OF MR. NGUYEN THANH NAM, AN THANH VILLAGE PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE DEPUTY CHIEF. THE BONES INCLUDE 1 JAW WITH THREE TEETH ATTACHED, ONE SHIN BONE ABOUT 35 CM LONG AND 14 SMALL PIECES. THERE ARE ALSO TWO SIDES PHOTOCOPIES OF AN MILITARY ID (CARD) NUMBER D847147. THE BONES AND ID'S PHOTOCOPIES WERE HANDED OVER TO THE JOINT TEAM. (NOTE: THE VNOSMP KEPT THE REMAINS AND ID CARD FOR LATER EXAMINATION AND TURN OVER AS APPROPRIATE.) AN THANH, 16 MAR 92. SIGNED BY NGUYEN CONG TAM (OWNER), NGUYEN TRI CHU, DAVID W. ATHERTON, THAI THI TUY LIEN, NGUYEN THANH NAM AND NGUYEN NGOC ANH. SUBSEQUENTLY, THE RECEIPT WAS STAMPED WITH AN OFFICIAL SONG BE SEAL.

(4) AFTER SIGNING THE DOCUMENT, TAM ASKED FOR A COPY. BECAUSE THERE WAS NO WAY TO MAKE A COPY OF THE DOCUMENT SHORT OF REWRITING IT, THE OFFICIALS ASSURED HIM THEY WOULD MAKE A COPY AND BRING IT BACK TO HIM THAT AFTERNOON. MR ATHERTON TOOK MRS LIEN ASIDE AND OFFERED TO WRITE A RECEIPT TO LEAVE WITH MR. TAM; HOWEVER, SHE REPLIED THAT WAS NOT NECESSARY. MR. TRU THEN MADE A SIMILAR COMMENT. AS THE TEAM PREPARED TO LEAVE MR. ATHERTON MADE A SHORT SPEECH THANKING MR. TAM AND MR. PHUC AND THEIR FAMILIES FOR HELPING IN THIS MATTER.

(5) ABOUT 1800 HOURS 18 MAR 92, MR. TAM ARRIVED AT THE DE NHAT HOTEL IN HO CHI MINH CITY AND ASKED TO TALK TO MR. DOAN AND MR. ATHERTON. HE INFORMED THEM HE WAS QUITE CONCERNED AS HE HAD NOT YET RECEIVED A COPY OF THE RECEIPT AND HE WAS AFRAID HIS FAMILY WOULD BE GETTING INTO TROUBLE OVER THE MATTER OF THE REMAINS. AS HE HAD BEEN CLEARLY AND REPEATEDLY PROMISED A RECEIPT BY BOTH THE VNOSMP AND PROVINCE OFFICIALS, MR ATHERTON MADE A COPY OF THE REPORT SIGNED TWO DAYS PREVIOUS AND GAVE IT TO MR. TAM, AGAIN THANKING HIM FOR HIS ASSISTANCE IN THIS HUMANITARIAN EFFORT.

4. COMMENTS:

A. () PHUC AND TAM WERE COOPERATIVE WITH THE TEAM'S REQUEST TO TURN OVER THE REMAINS. THERE WAS SOME DISSAPPOINTMENT AS THEY REALIZED THEY WOULD RECEIVE NOTHING FOR THE REMAINS. THEIR BIGGEST EMOTION SEEMED TO BE RELIEF AT BEING DONE WITH THE RISK, PERCEIVED OR REAL, OF HIDING THE REMAINS. ON THE 17TH, PHUC INTRODUCED TWO OTHER INDIVIDUALS TO THE TEAM, ONE OF WHOM

PROVIDED GOOD INFORMATION ON AN ACTIVE CASE; HOWEVER, THAT IS REPORTED SEPERATELY.

B. () THE TEAM COULD NOT DETERMINE IF ADDISON HAD BEEN RECOVERED FROM A PARTIALLY RESOLVED CASE. REQUEST CILHI PROVIDE JTF-FA THE DETAILS OF ADDISION'S DEATH IN ORDER TO FACILITATE FURTHER EVALUATION OF THIS INFORMATION. THE TEAM WILL FORWARD PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE REMAINS AS EXPIDITIOUSLY AS POSSIBLE.

C. () ENROUTE TO PICK UP THE REMAINS, MRS. LIEN INFORMED MR ATHERTON SHE WAS NOT VERY OPTOMISTIC REGARDING THE REMAINS AS THEY HAD GONE THROUGH THIS EXERCISE A NUMBER OF TIMES WITH POOR RESULTS. THE SONG BE AUTHORITIES WERE VERY RESPONSIVE TO TEAM REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE REGARDING WALK IN INTERVIEWS. MR. CHINH STATED QUITE CLEARLY ON SEVERAL OCCASSIONS THAT THE TEAM WAS FREE TO TALK WITH ANYONE REGARDING REMAINS OR INFORMATION. IN THIS CASE, TAM AND PHUC DID NOT INFORM THE TEAM THEY WOULD BE RETURNING IN THE AFTERNOON; YET, WITHIN THIRTY TO FORTY MINUTES OF NOTIFICATION, THE APPROPRIATE PROVINCIAL AUTHORITIES HAD ASSEMBLED AT THE BINH DUONG HOTEL AND THE TEAM DEPARTED TO PICK UP THE REPORTED ADDISON REMAINS. IT IS NOT CLEAR WHY THE SONG BE PROVINCE OFFICIALS DID NOT PROVIDE THE A COPY OF THE REPORT TO MR. TAM; HOWEVER, MR. ATHERTON'S PROVISION OF A COPY IS CONSISTENT WITH THEIR STATED PROMISE TO THE WITNESS. ADDITIONALLY, PROVINCIAL AND CENTRAL OFFICIALS HAVE CONSISTENTLY PROMISED TO PROTECT THOSE WHO ASSIST THE TEAM. PROVISION OF THE RECEIPT BY MR. ATHERTON IS CONSISTENT WITH THOSE PROMISES AND WITH US INTERESTS BY INSURING THE PEOPLES WILLINGNESS TO ASSIT THE US TEAMS.