

U-2245/DI-7

30 June 1980

SUBJECT: Rumor of Capture of Two "Americans"

Reference: JCRC Report I79-014.

On 9 November 1979, LtCol P. Mather interviewed VN refugee, Hinh Van Hieu, at Air Raya, Anambas, Indonesia. Hieu provided information concerning two "Americans" who were captured at Hon Tre island circa 28 April 1975, which is reported in reference. On 28 May 1980, Arlo Gay, a former American civilian, who was captured at Hon Tre island at approximately the same date, was interviewed in Garden Grove, California, in regard to reference. Gay felt that the "Ong Jim" referred to in reference is a Canadian civilian named James Sturgeon. Gay indicated that he was very familiar with all of the caucasians working in the Hong Tre/Hong Nhe Area. Gay advised that he felt the "Ong Jim" referred to by Hieu is Sturgeon because of the close physical description provided by Hieu and that Sturgeon frequently worked on electrical equipment for the Lien Anh company, the company by which Sturgeon was employed. However, Gay advised that Sturgeon left Vietnam by air from Saigon on 28 April 1975. Gay advised that he was present at the Saigon Airport when Sturgeon left Vietnam. In regard to the person referred to by Hieu as "Ong Wilson," Gay advised that he has a Vietnamese wife who is from Saigon, but that he and his wife owned a home at Vung Tau which they frequently visited. Gay advised that his daughter, who is half-Vietnamese, was 10 years old in 1975. Gay advised that he never used the name "Wilson" and that he was not bearded. Further, Gay does not have a heavy build, but is tall and slim. Gay advised that the description of "Ong Wilson" provided by Hieu coincides well with a former USAID employee who was in Hon Tre for a short time, but left the VN in mid-1974. Gay was unable to recall this man's name.

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